

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



Amulet

KAZU KIBUSHI

BOOK FOUR
THE LAST COUNCIL

SCHOLASTIC

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KATE KIBBISZ



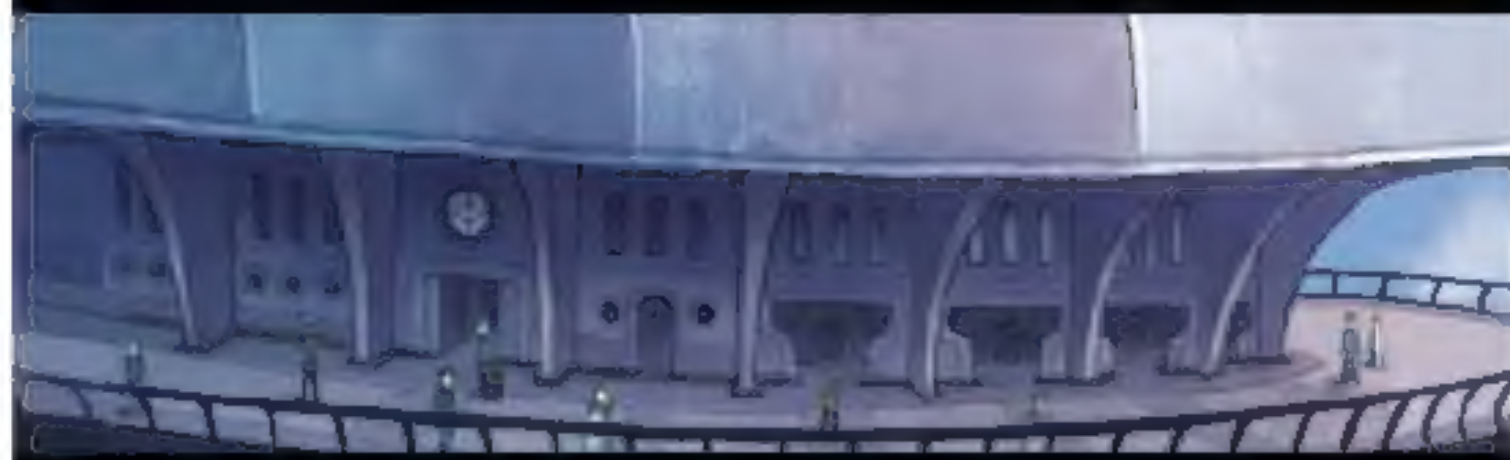
BOOK FOUR
THE LAST COUNCIL



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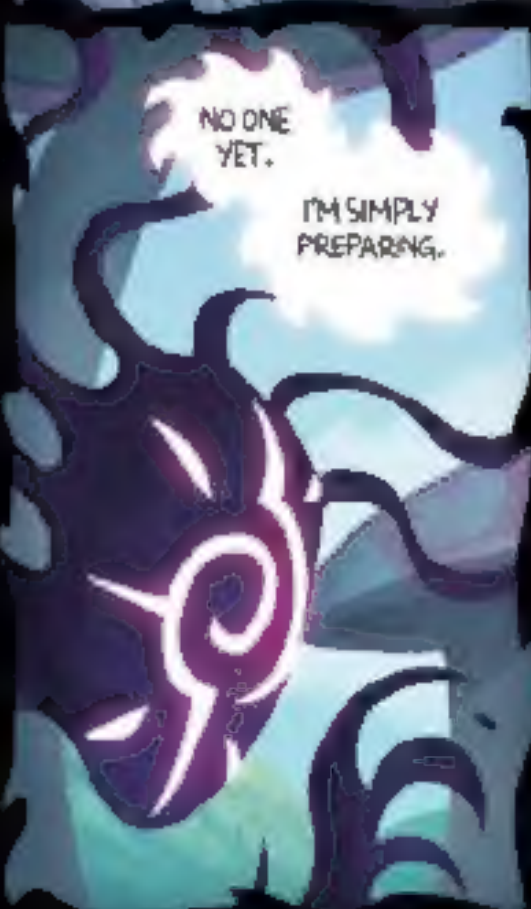
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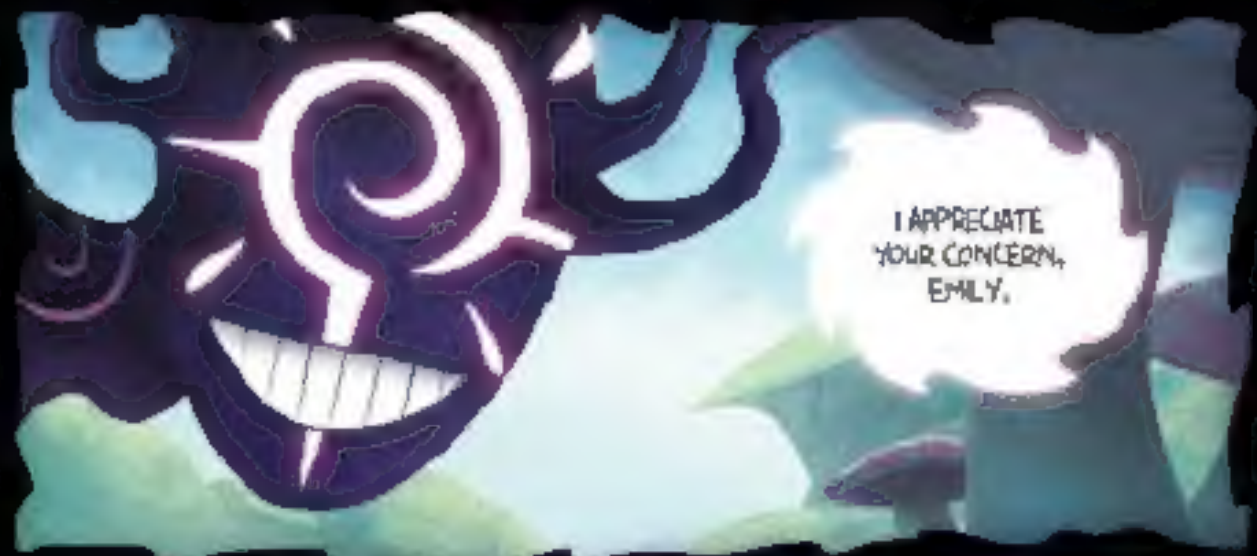












I APPRECIATE
YOUR CONCERN,
EMILY.



YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT UPON
ENTERING CIEL'S,
YOU WILL NO
LONGER HEAR
MY VOICE.




WHY?




THE CITY WAS BUILT BY
THE EARLY STONEKEEPERS
TO SILENCE THE VOICES
OF THE STONES. THERE IS
AN OLD MAGIC AT WORK
IN THOSE WALLS.




WHEN YOU
ENTER THE CITY,
YOU WILL BE
ON YOUR OWN.




I DON'T MEAN
TO BE RUDE,
BUT THAT SOUNDS
GREAT.




YOU ARE VERY
TALENTED, AND
YOU HAVE STRONG
INTUITION.



BUT YOU WILL
STILL NEED MY
GUIDANCE IN
THE END.




I WILL BE
GONE SOON.
SO I WILL LEAVE
YOU WITH A
WARNING.




BEWARE
THE HALL OF
HUMBLE KINGS.


PASS THROUGH
TO THE END AND
THE GAME WILL
BEGIN.



WHAT IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?



WHAT WILL I
FIND AT THE
END?




IT'S BETTER
THAT YOU DO
NOT KNOW.

WHY KEEP
SECRETS FROM
ME?

I'M YOUNG, BUT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING.

YOU ARE
NOT READY.


It's too soon!



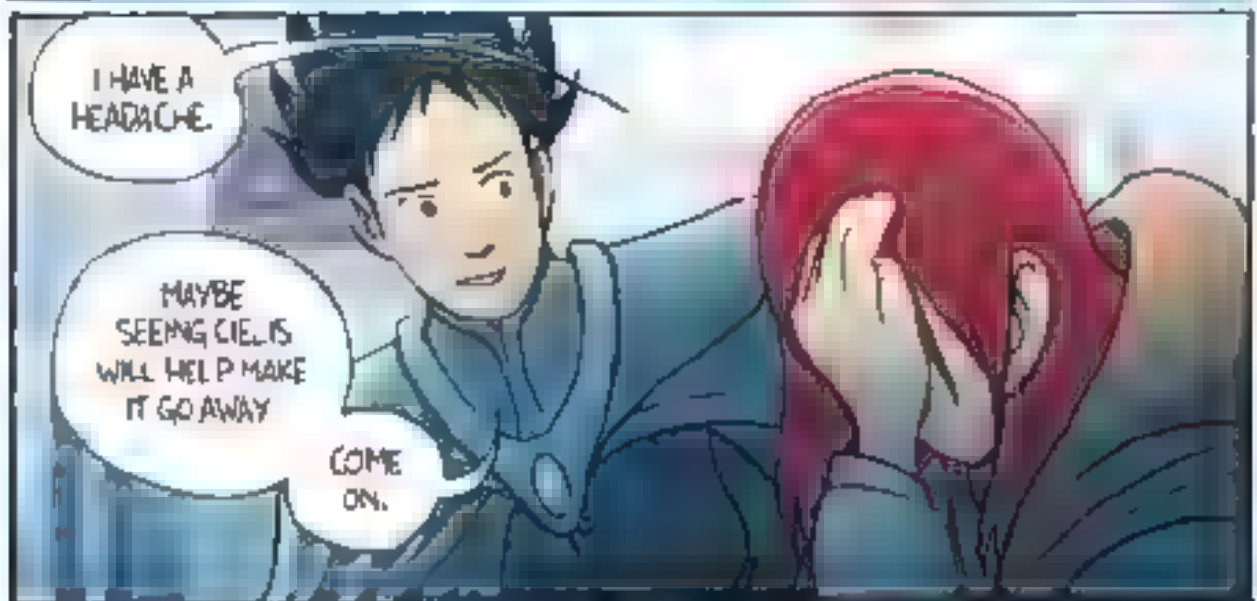
NOT YET
YOU WILL BE
SOON.

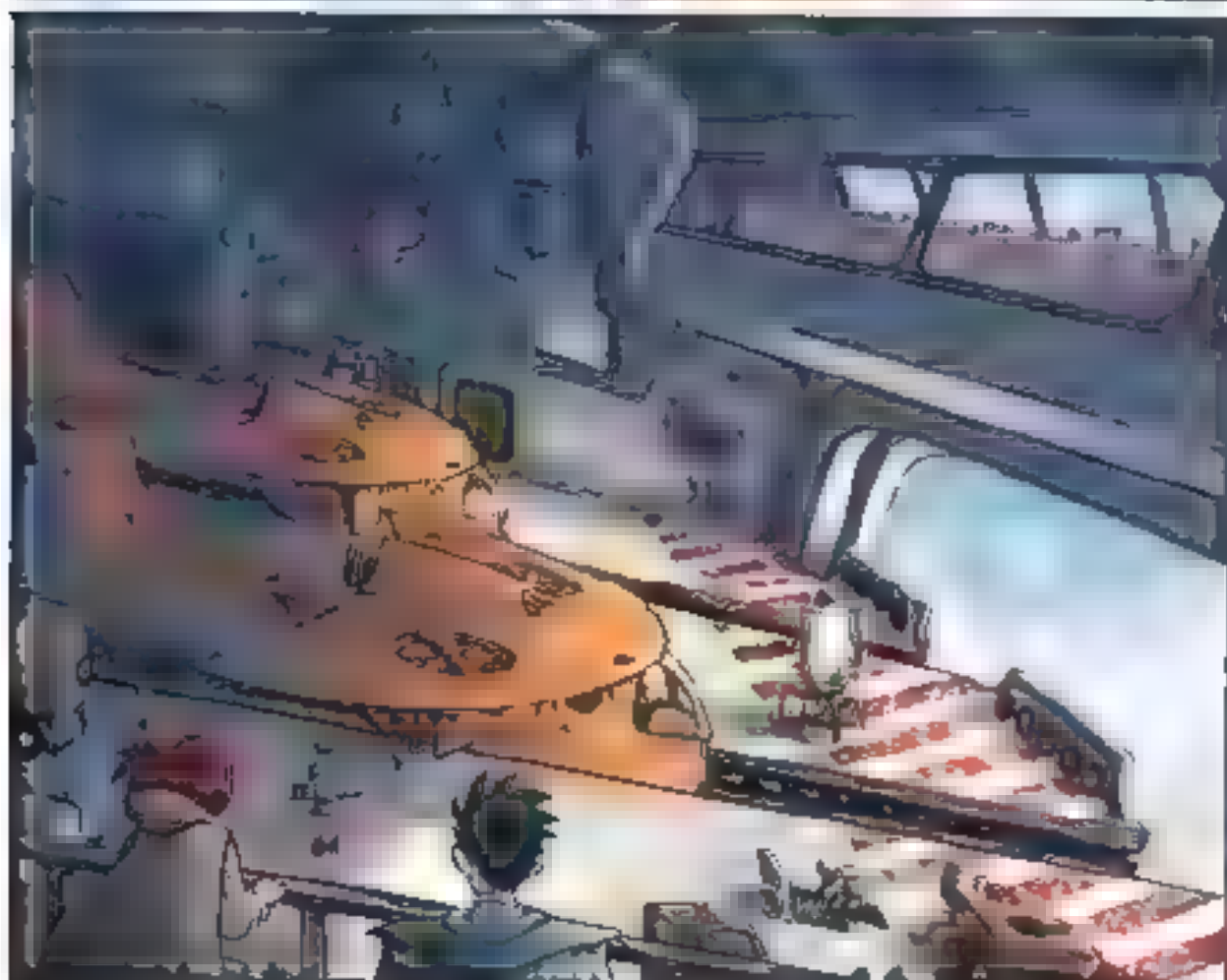
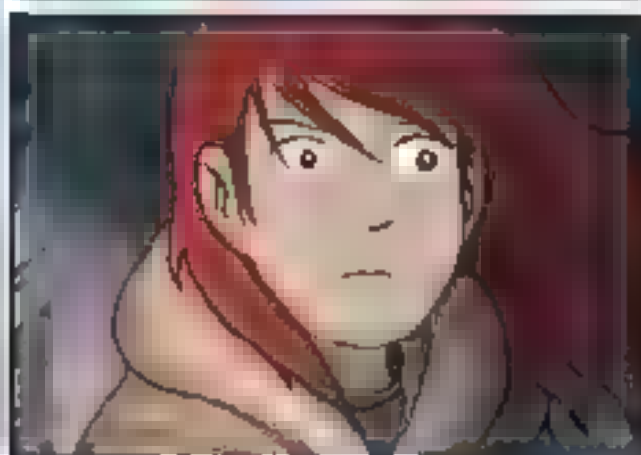
WHEN YOU
BEGIN TO REALIZE
THE TRUE WEIGHT
OF YOUR ACTIONS...

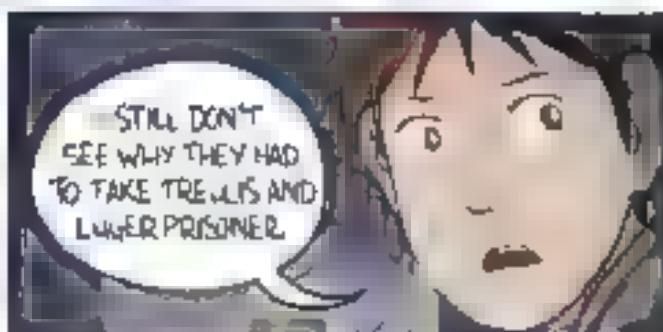
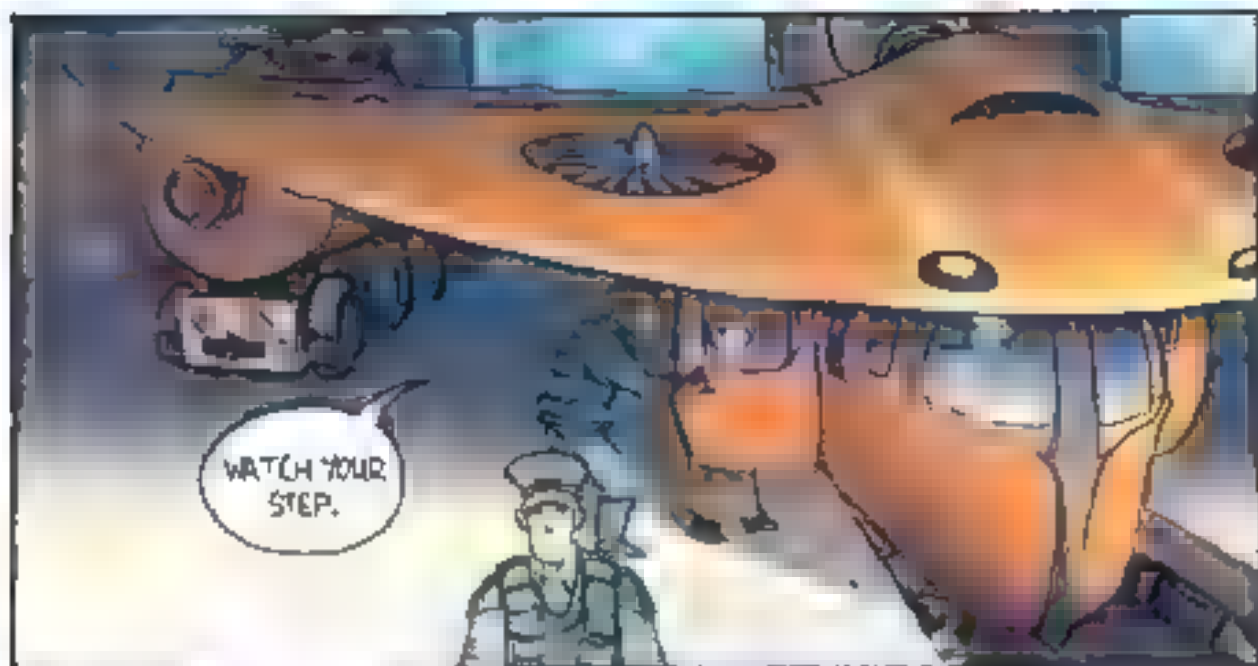
...YOU WILL AWAKEN
TO BECOME THE
PERSON THIS WORLD
NEEDS YOU TO BE.

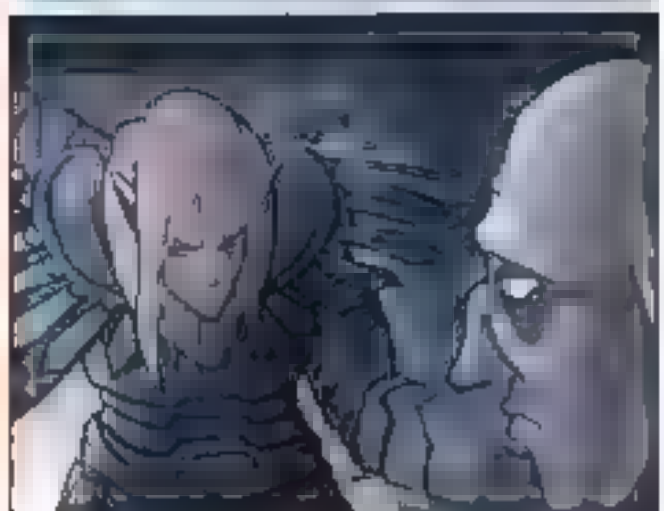
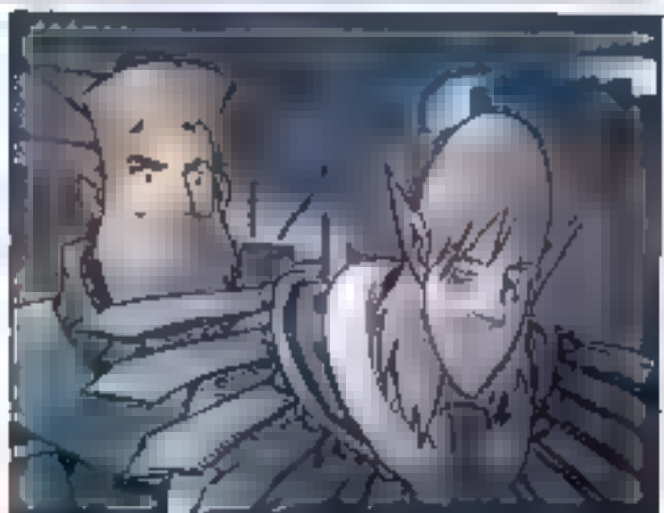
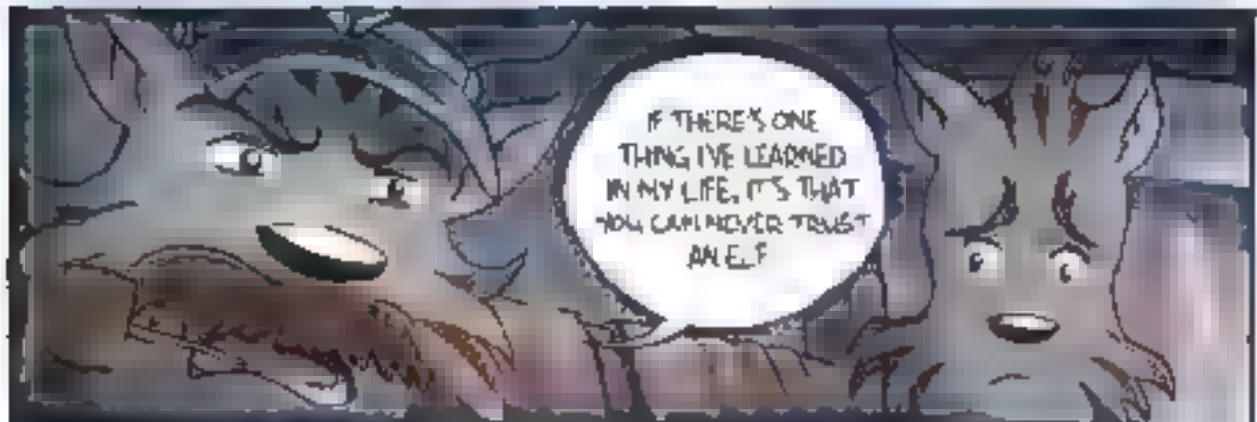


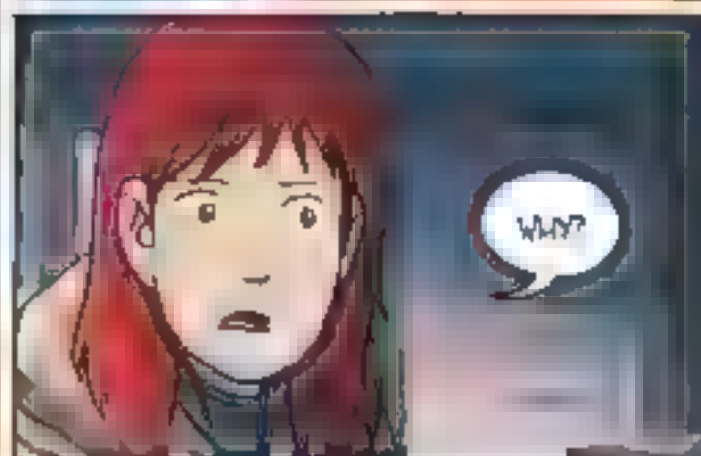
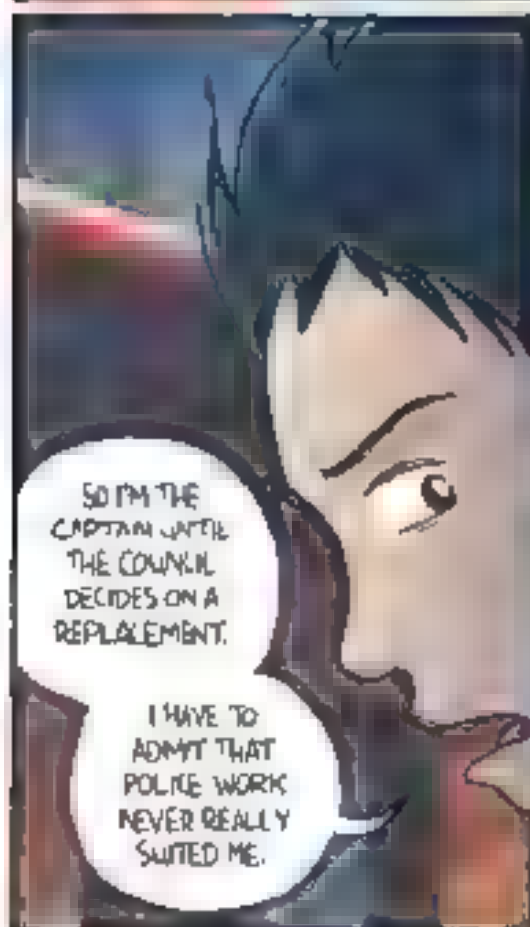
GOOD LUCK,
YOUNG MASTER.

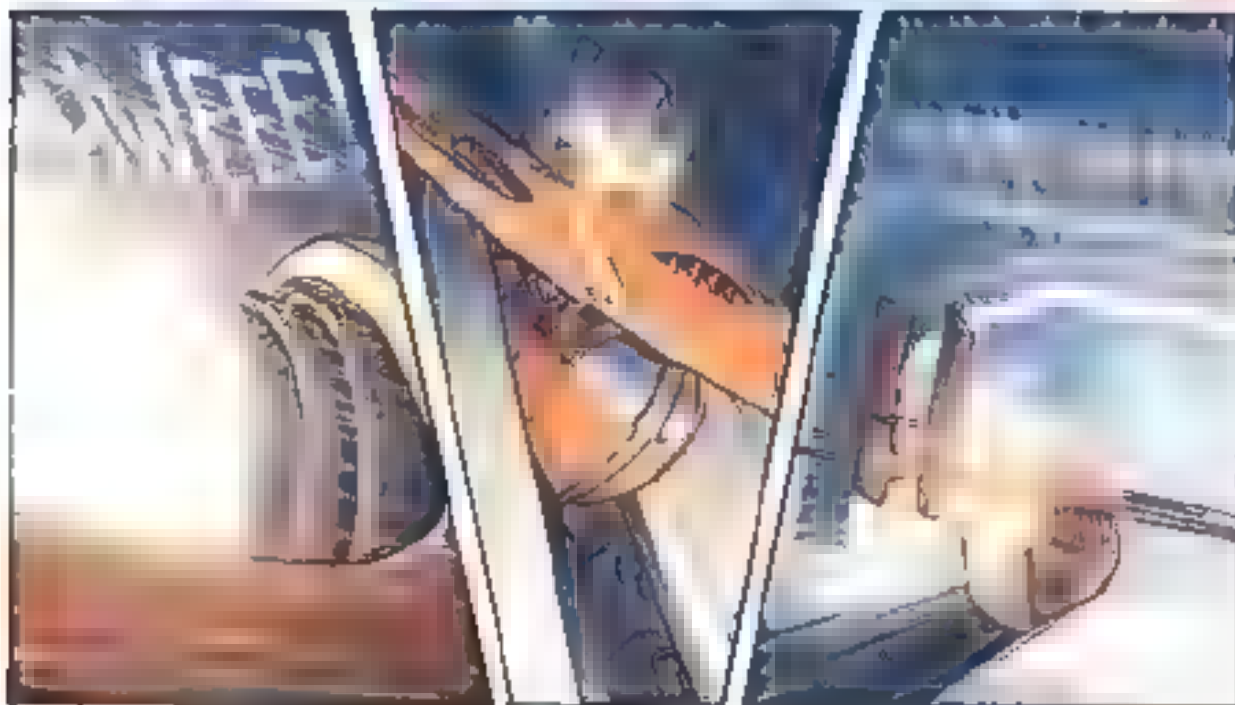
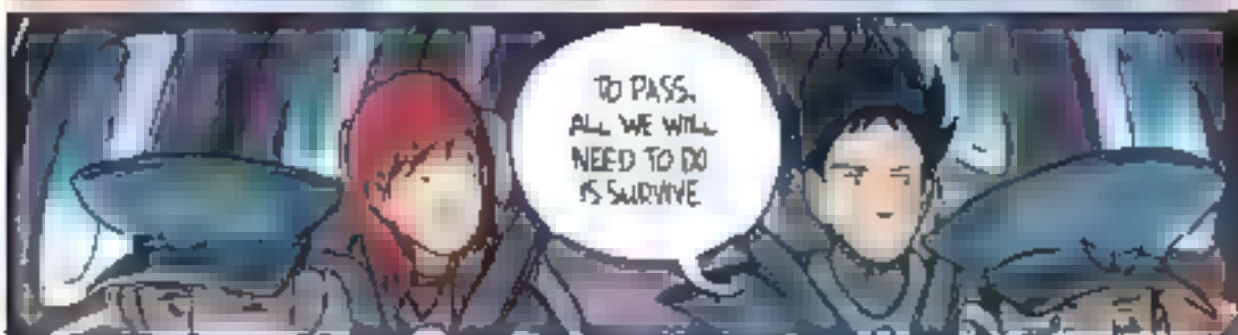
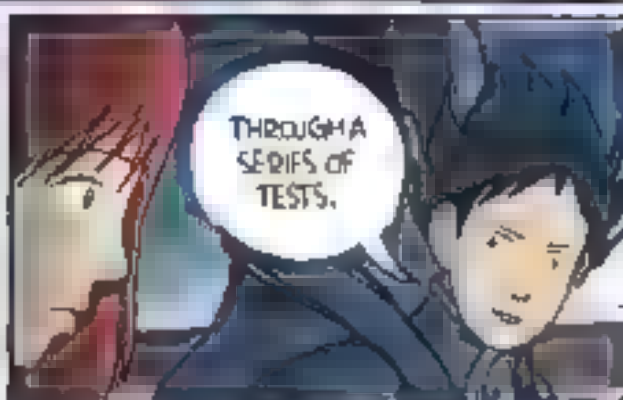




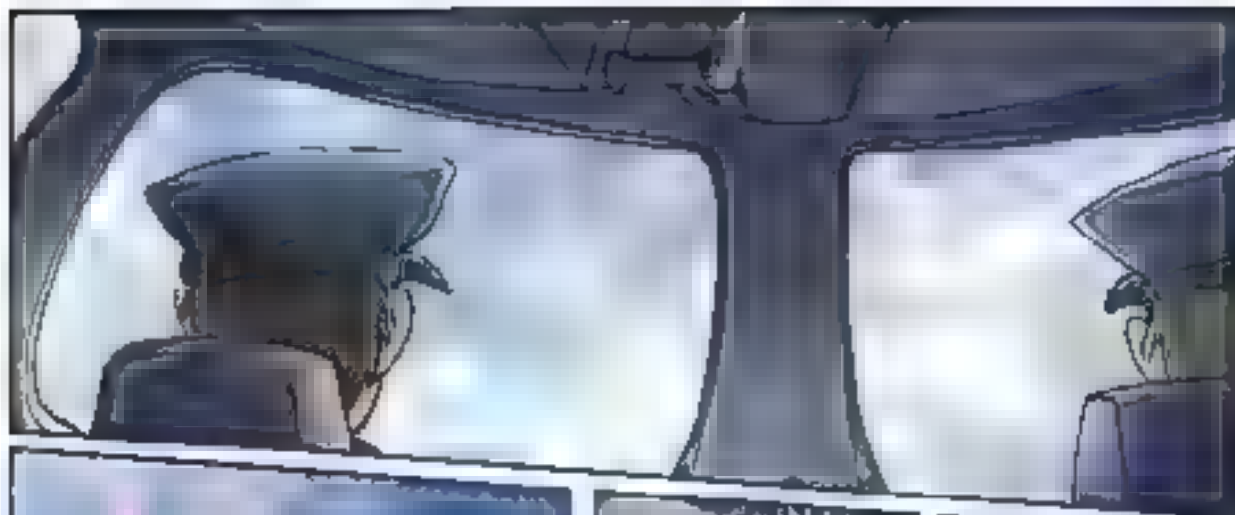




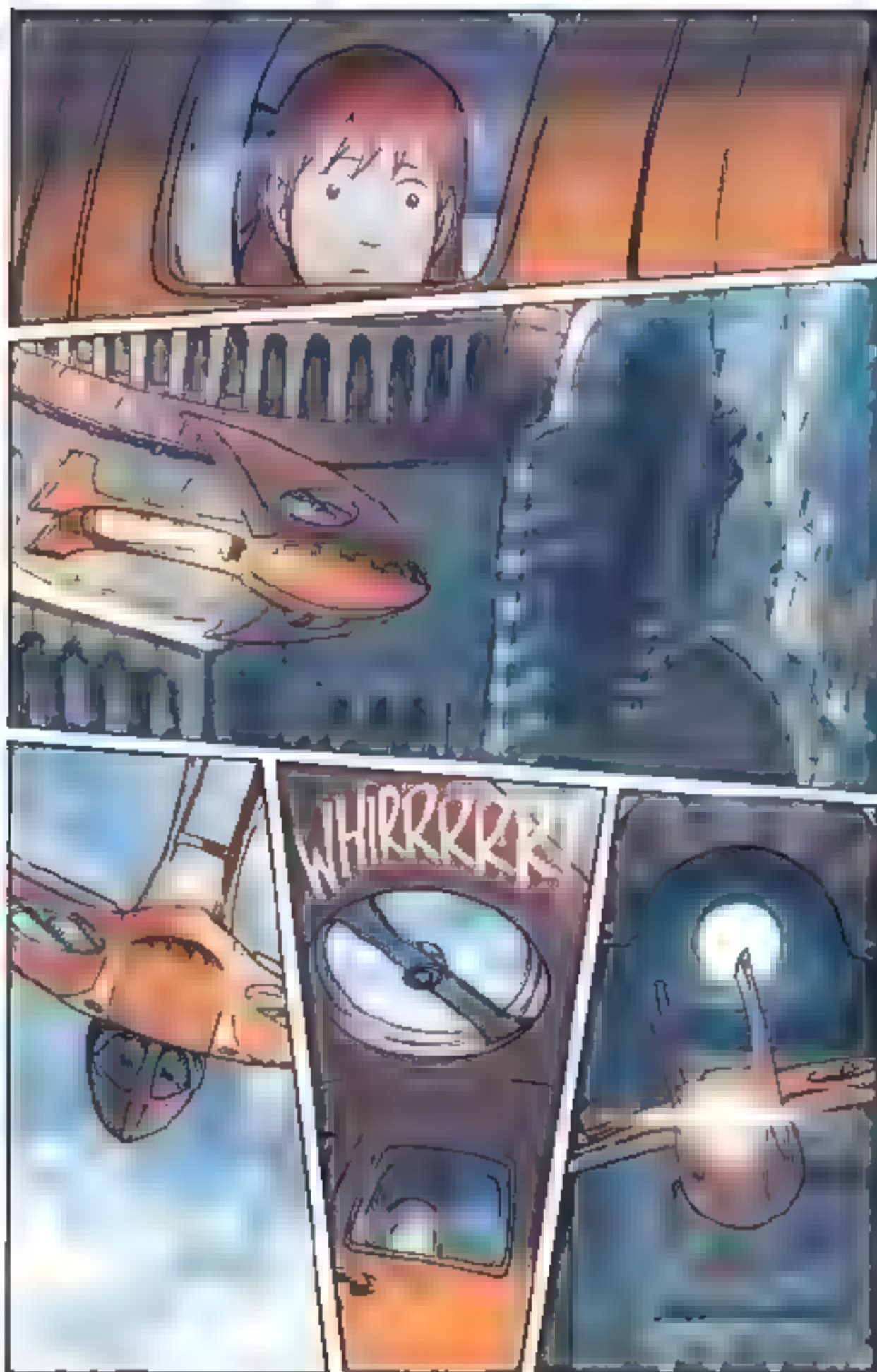


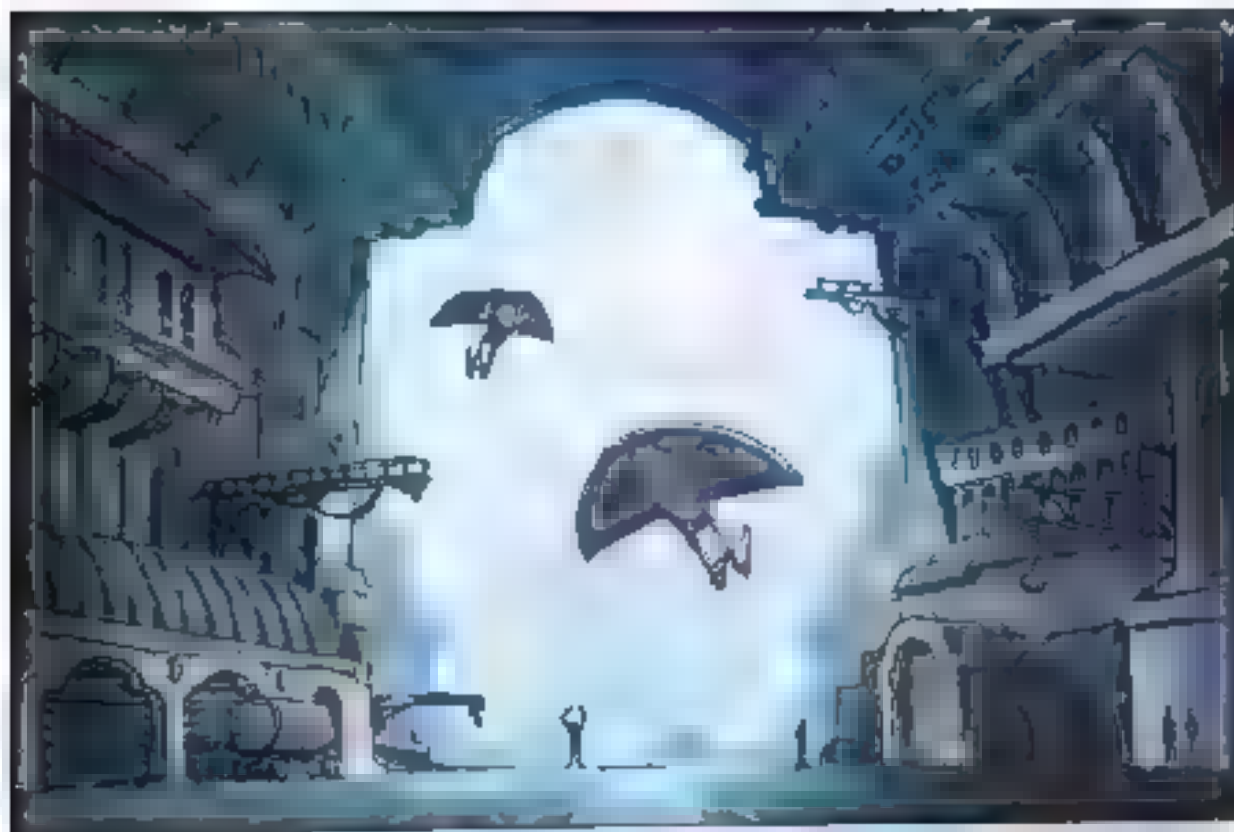


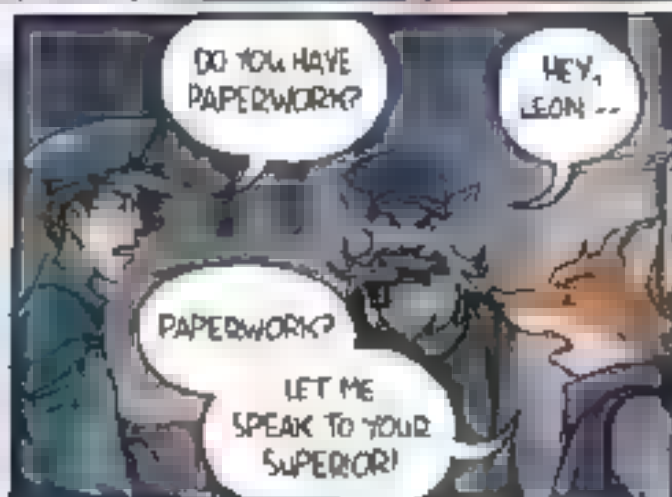
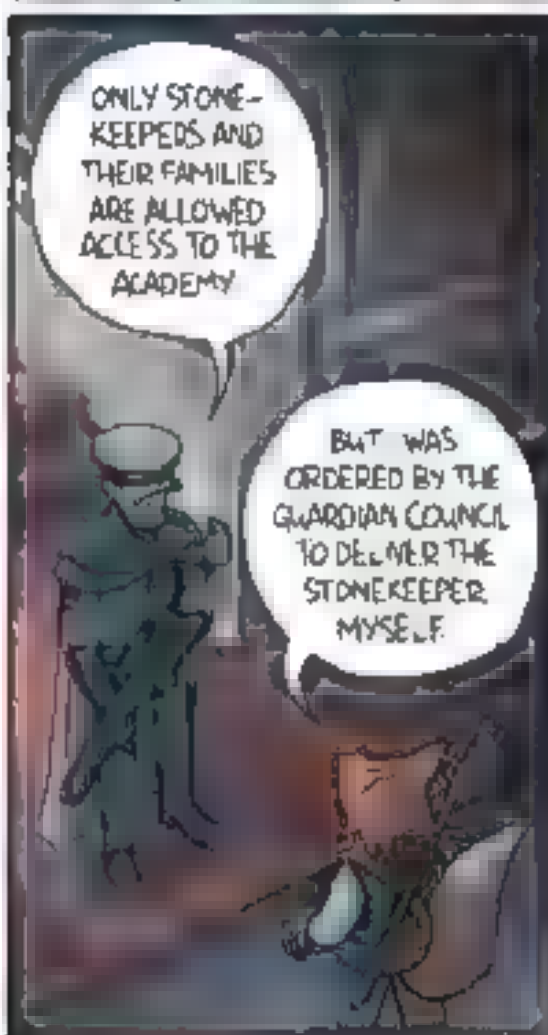


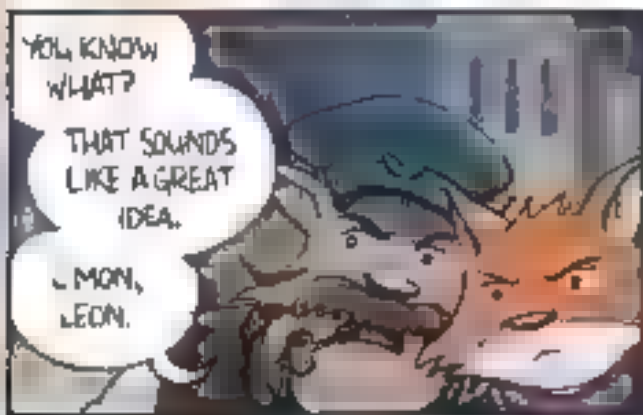


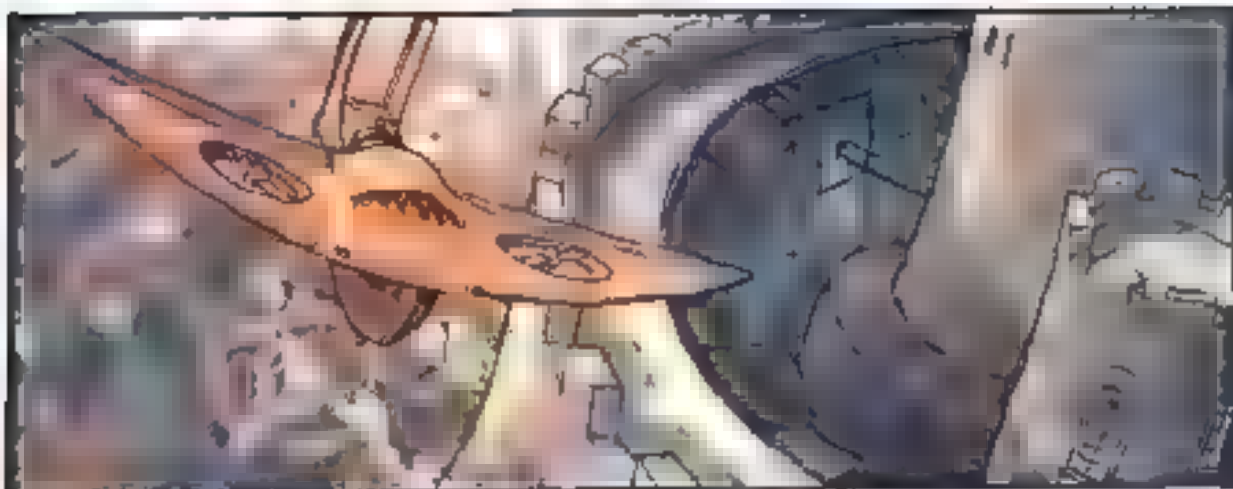


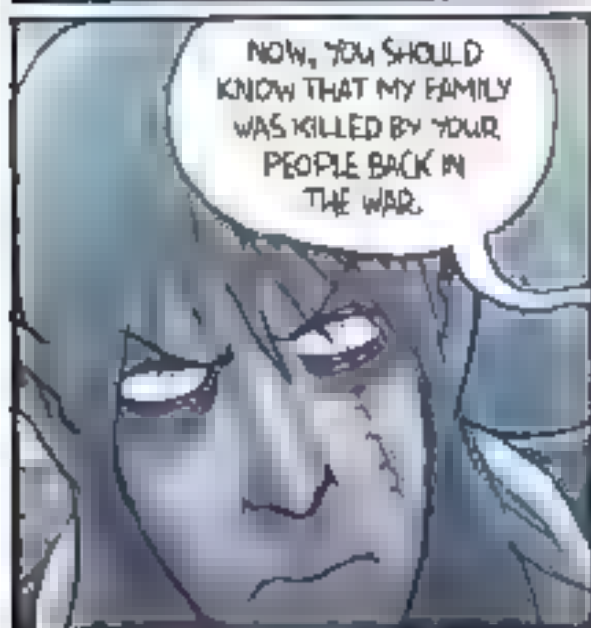
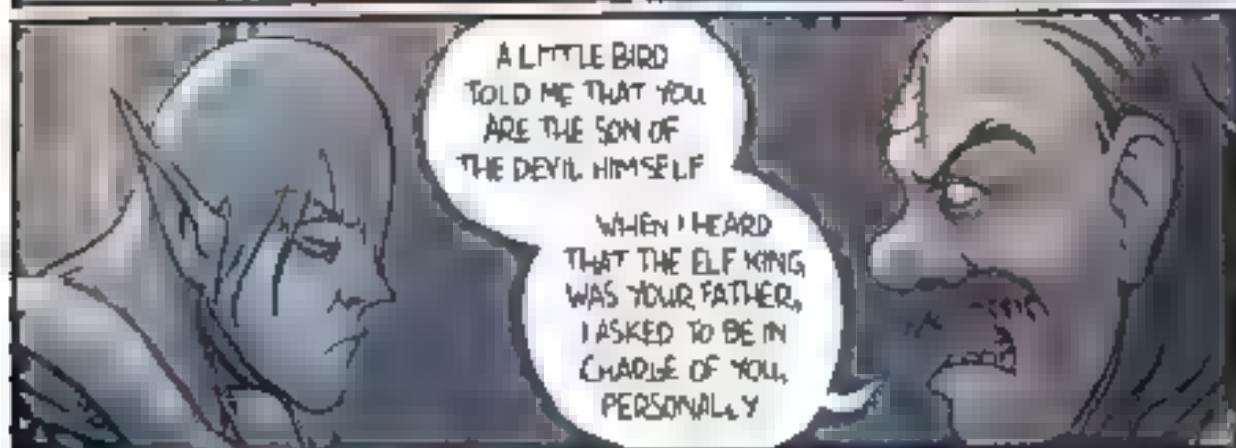


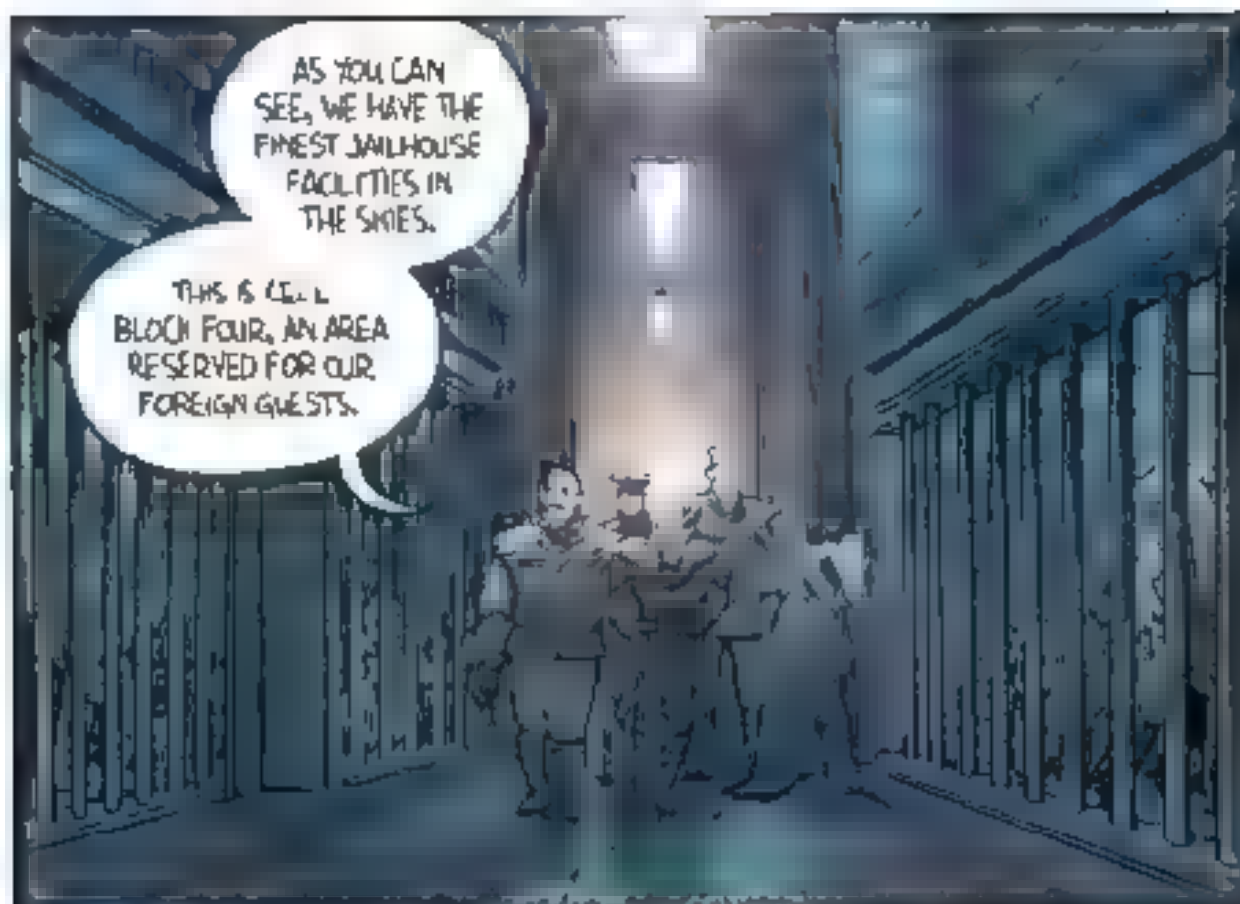






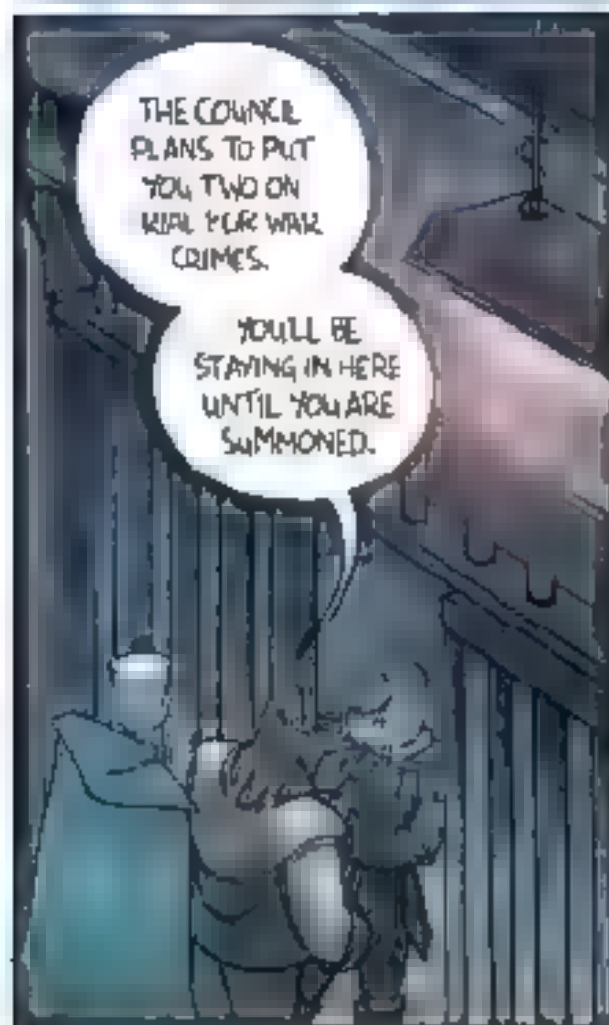






AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE THE FINEST JAILHOUSE FACILITIES IN THE SHIES.

THIS IS CELL BLOCK FOUR, AN AREA RESERVED FOR OUR FOREIGN GUESTS.



THE COUNCIL PLANS TO PUT YOU TWO ON TRIAL FOR WAR CRIMES.

YOU'LL BE STAYING IN HERE UNTIL YOU ARE SUMMONED.



DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, UNDERSTAND?

IF FIND ANY EXCUSE TO COME IN HERE AND REGULATE, TRUST ME, I'LL TAKE IT.



IF I CAN JUST GET THIS COLLAR OFF,

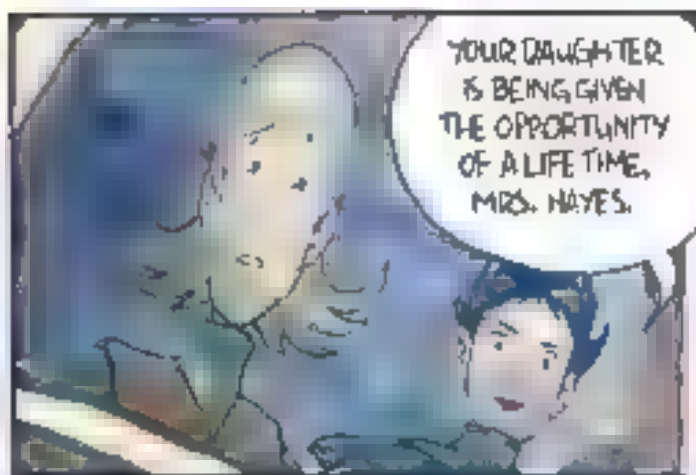
I CAN USE MY STONE TO BREAK US OUT.





THIS IS
QUITE A
VIEW!

THE BEST
IN THE CITY,
MAM.



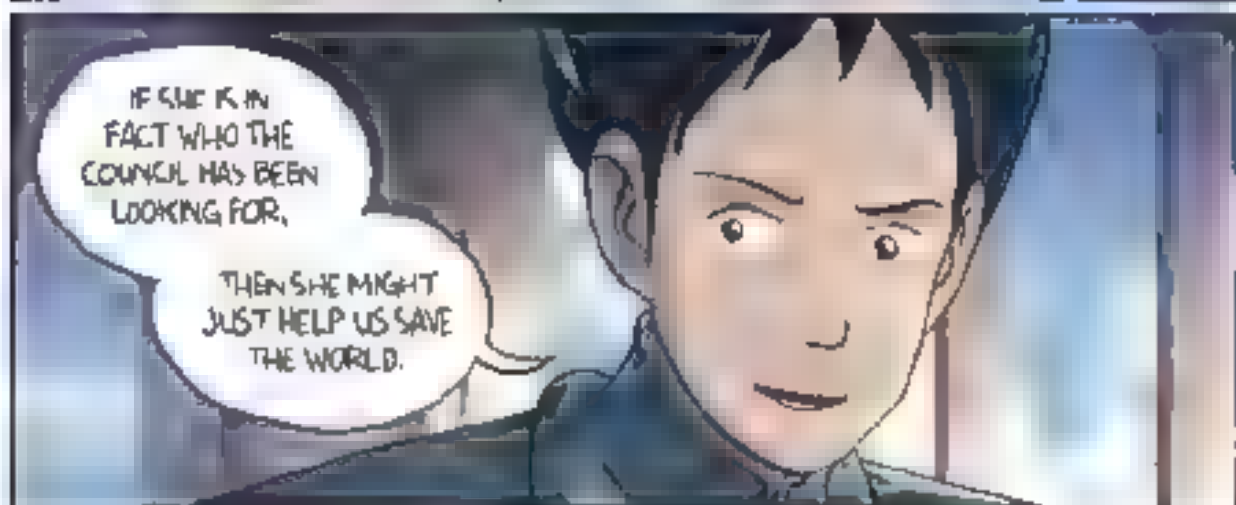
YOUR DAUGHTER
IS BEING GIVEN
THE OPPORTUNITY
OF A LIFE TIME,
MRS. HAYES.



VERY FEW STONE-
KEEPERS ARE GIVEN
THIS CHANCE.



I HATE TO SOUND
IGNORANT, BUT WHAT
EXACTLY IS THIS "CHANCE"
THAT'S BEING PRESENTED
TO EMILY?

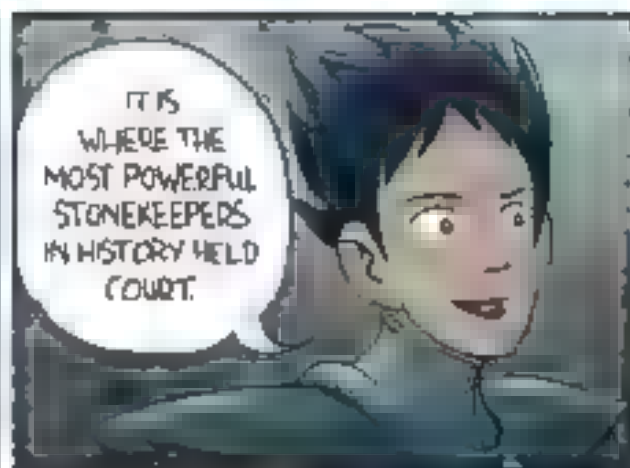


IF SHE IS IN
FACT WHO THE
COUNCIL HAS BEEN
LOOKING FOR,

THEN SHE MIGHT
JUST HELP US SAVE
THE WORLD.



THIS IS
THE GRAND
HALL OF THE
ACADEMY.



IT IS
WHERE THE
MOST POWERFUL
STONEKEEPERS
IN HISTORY HELD
COURT.



AND NOW WE'LL
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO JOIN THEIR
RANKS.



MAX,

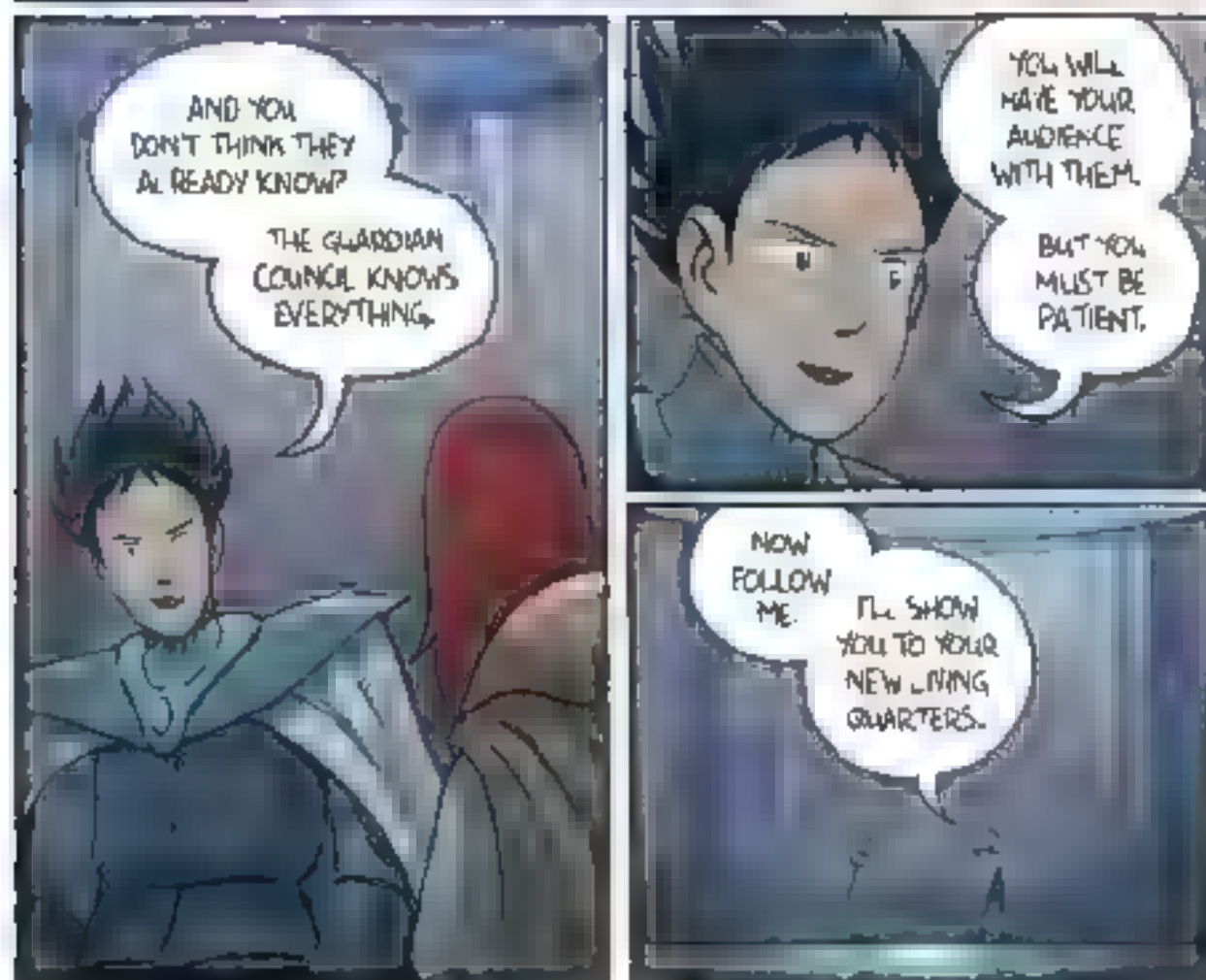
IS THIS THE
GUARDIAN COUNCIL'S
CHAMBER?

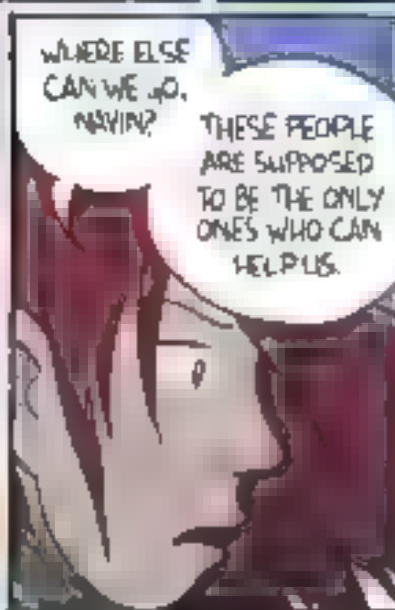
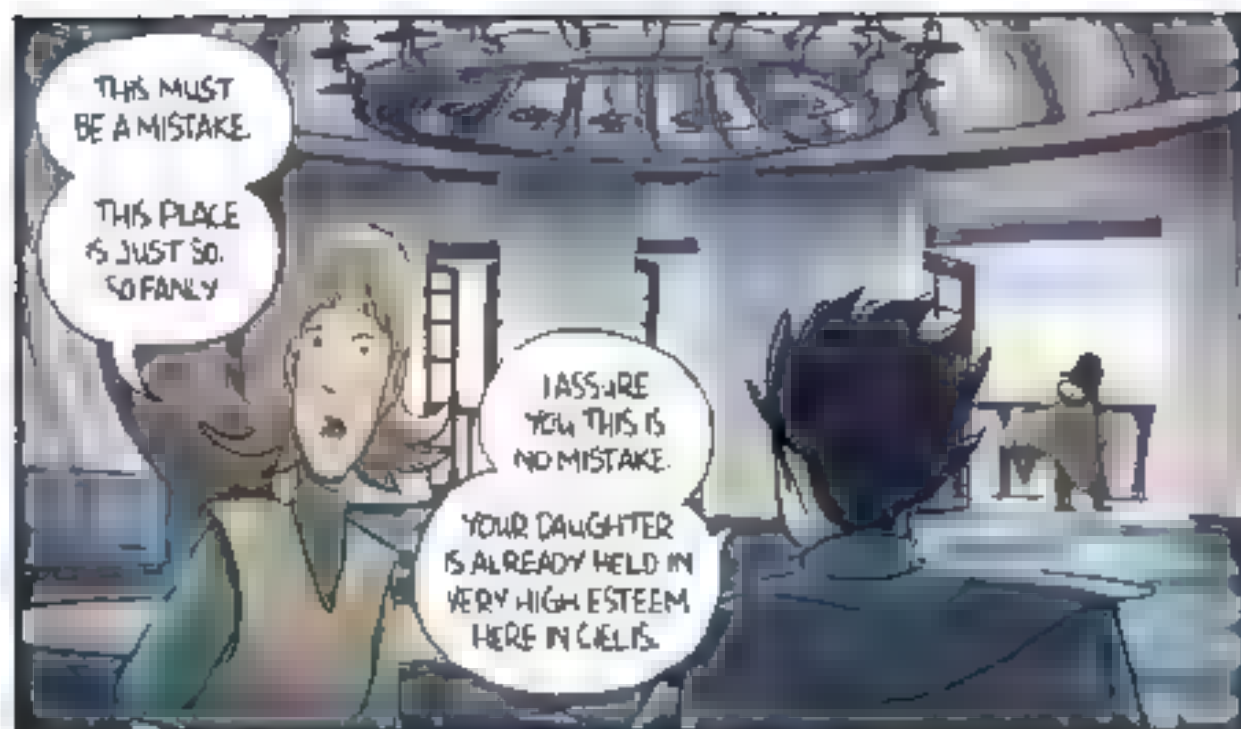
YES.



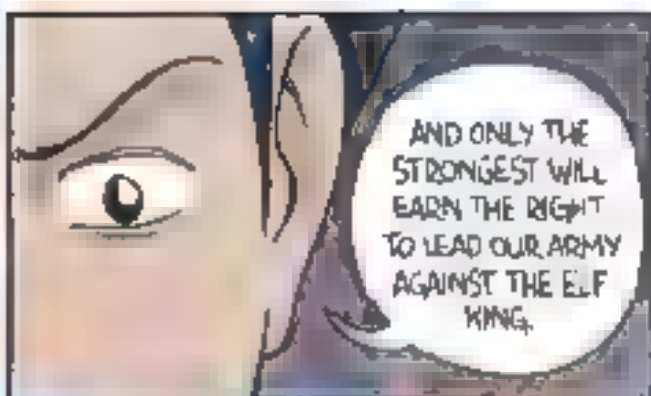
HOW DO I
GET INSIDE?

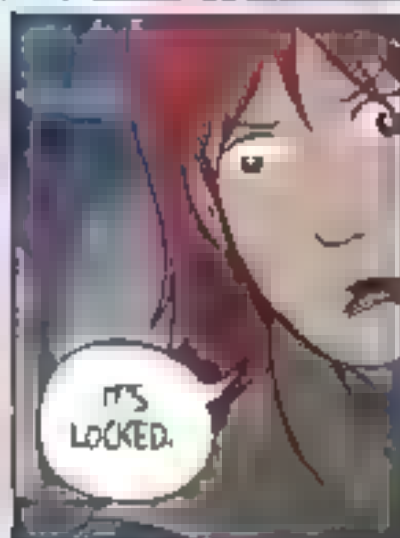
WE NEED TO
SPEAK WITH
THEM.

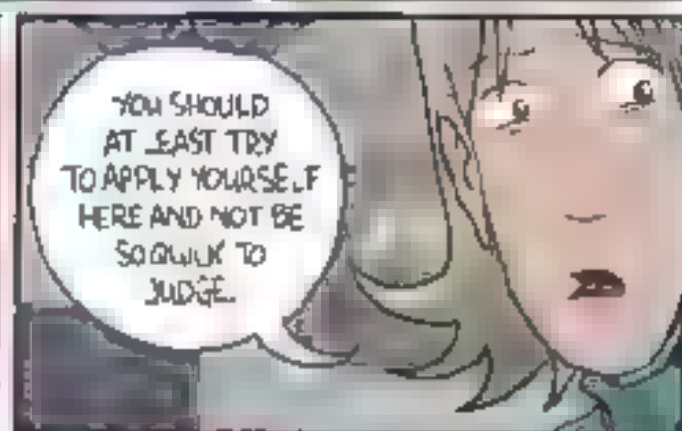








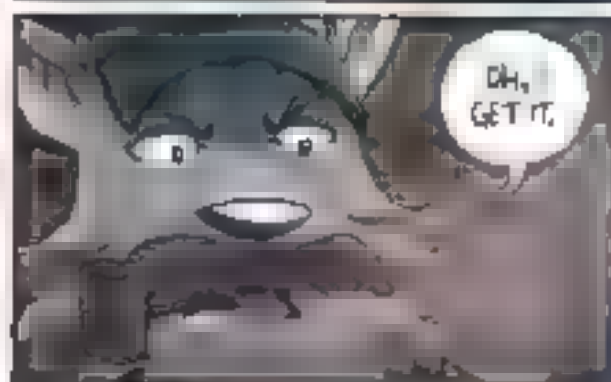


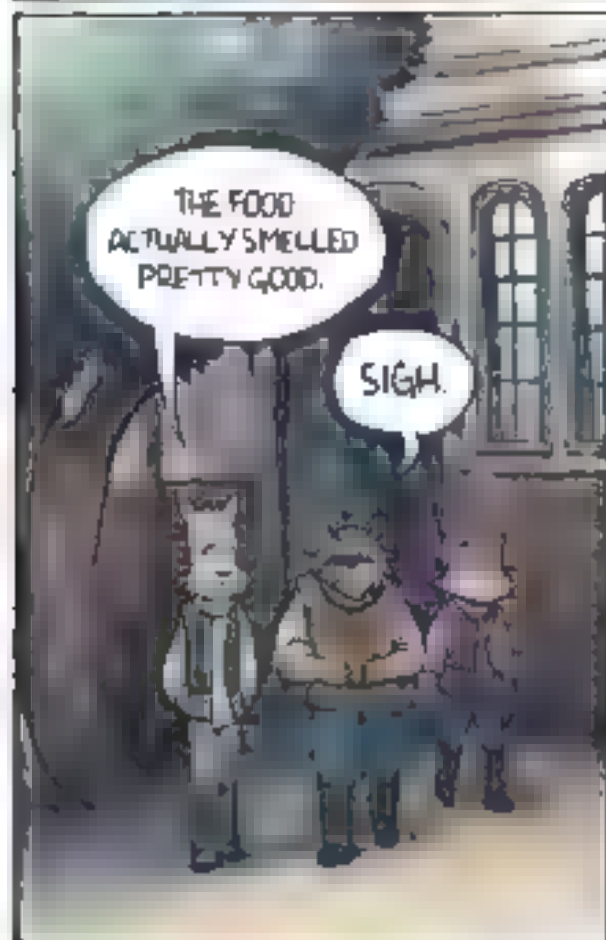


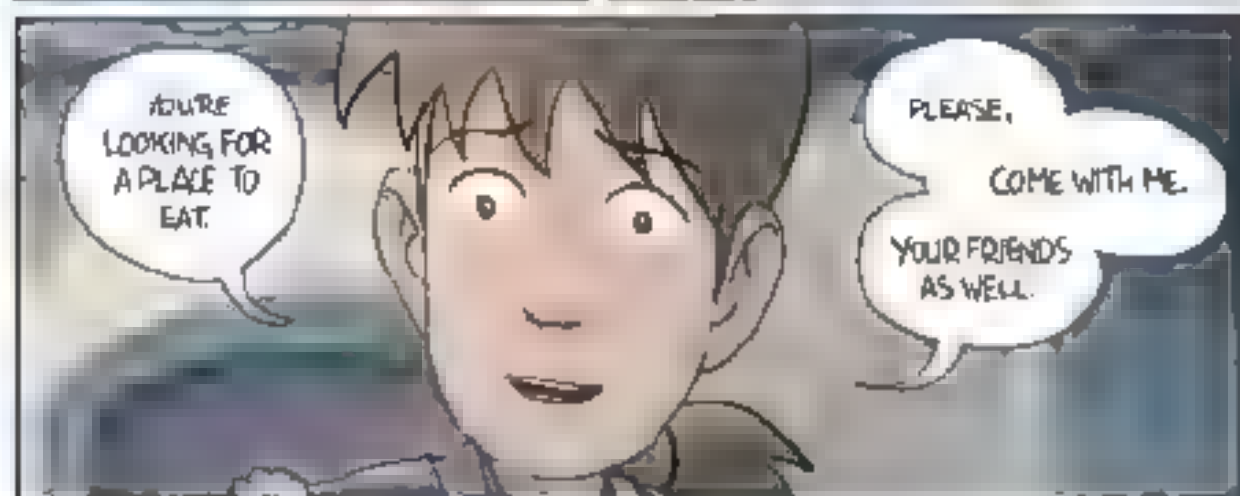
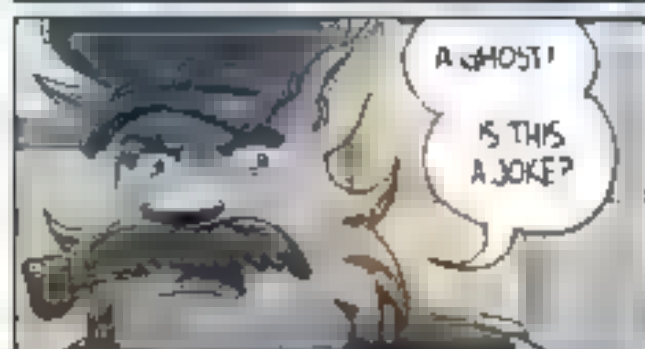


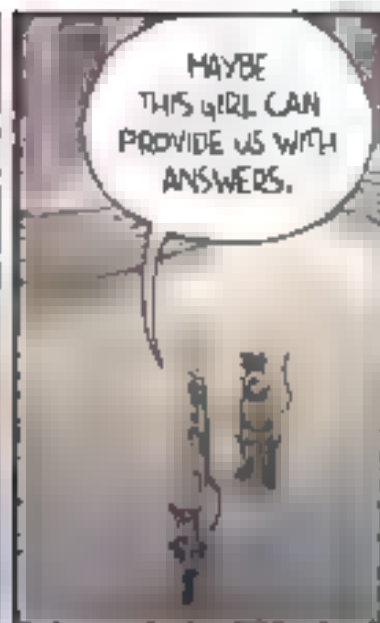


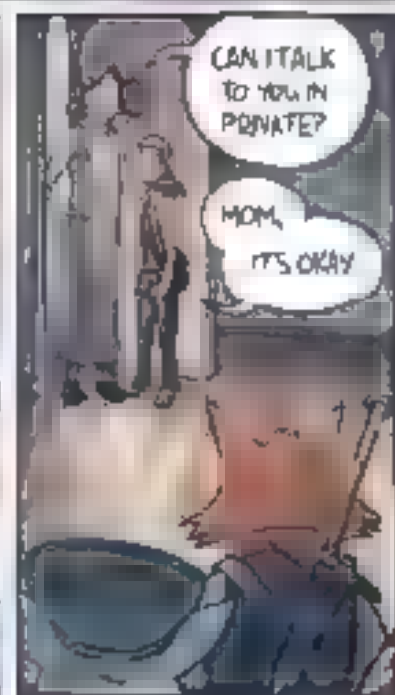
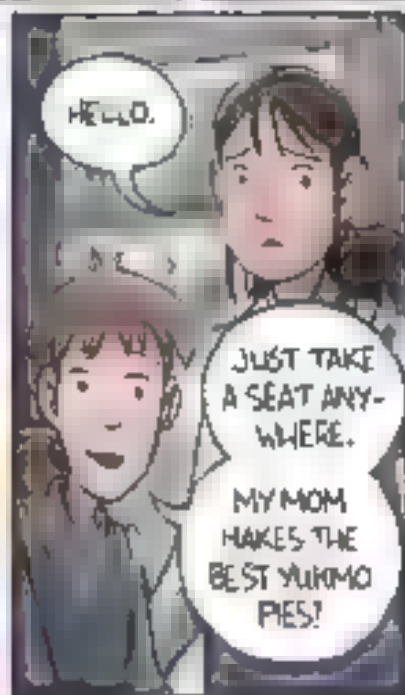
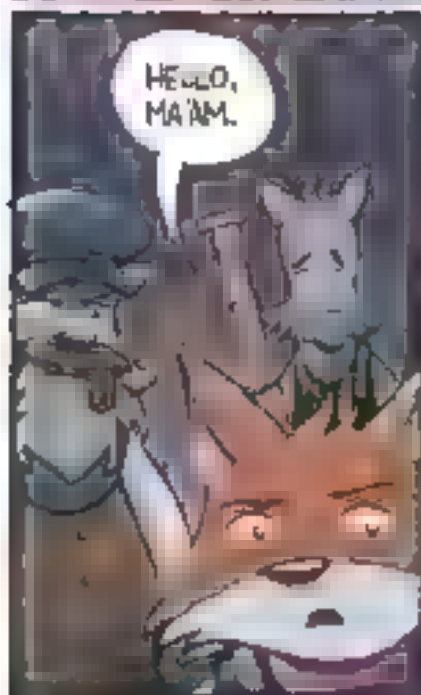
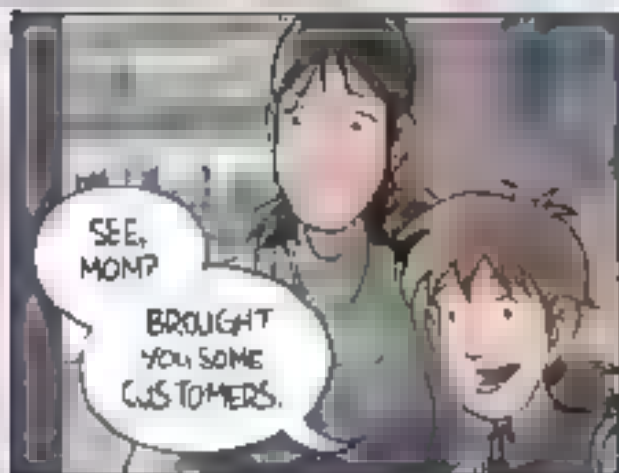


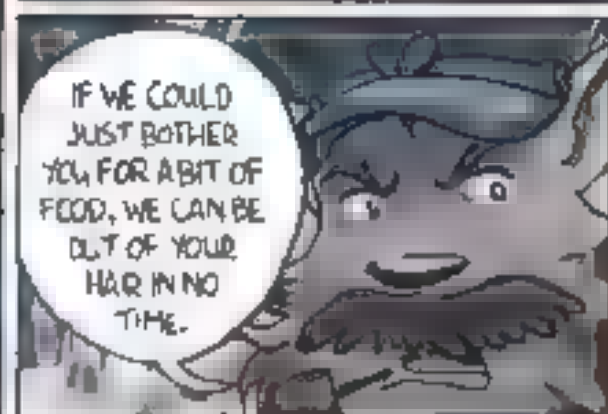
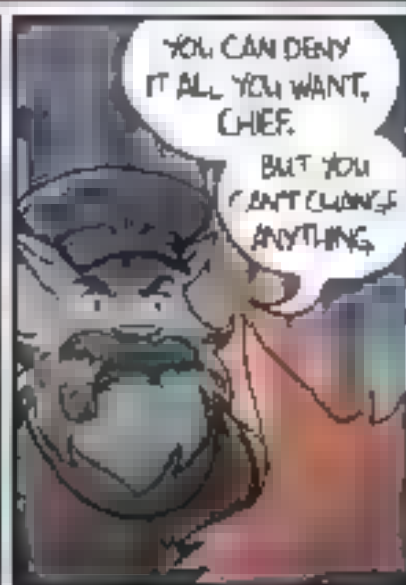
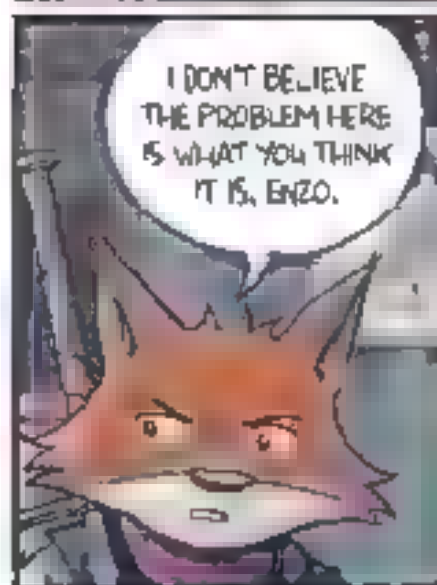


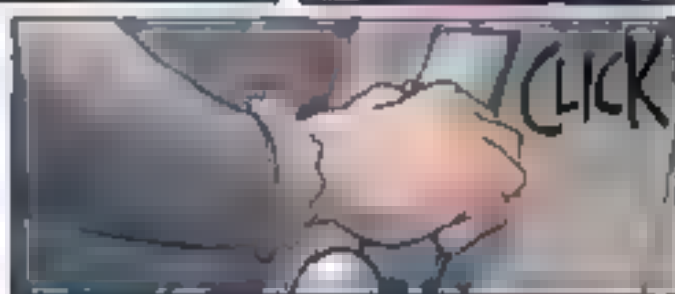


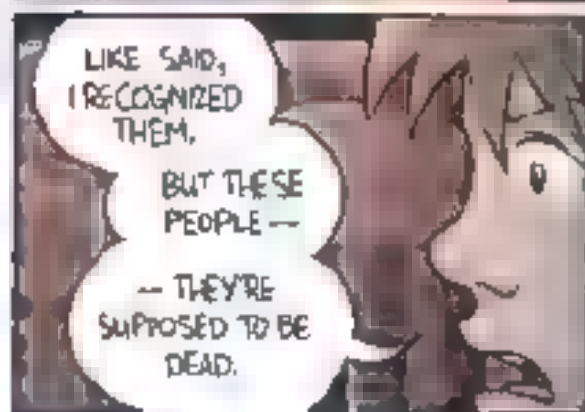
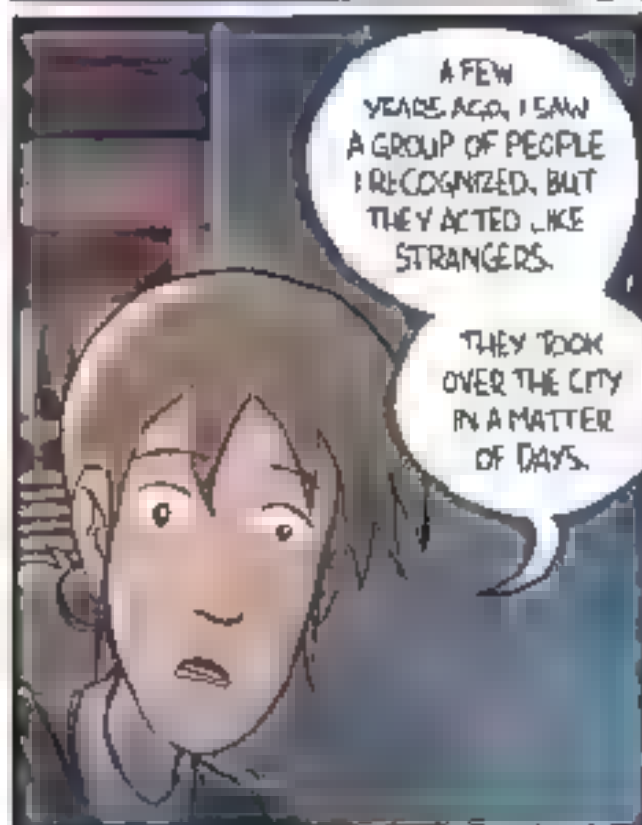


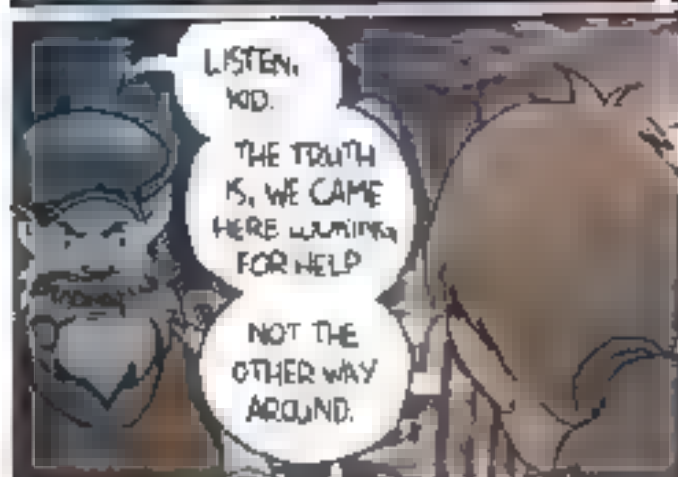


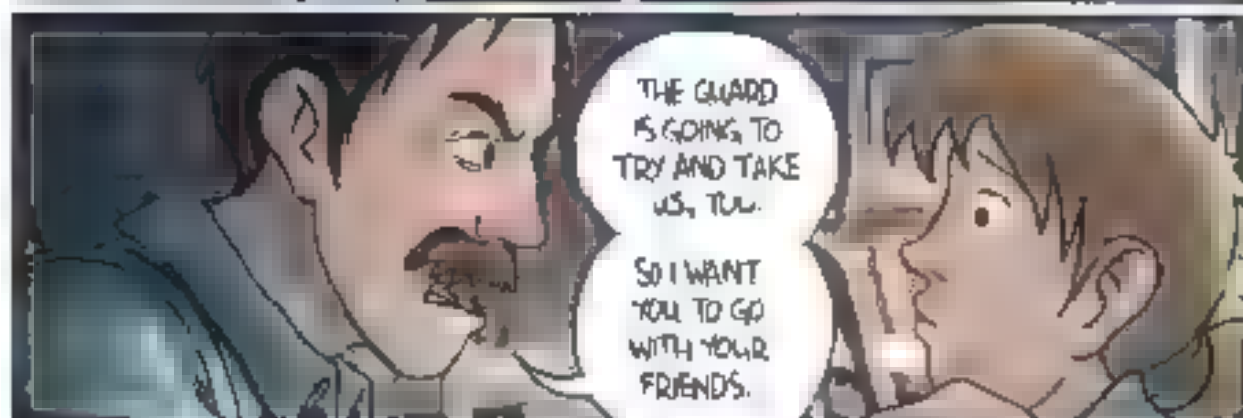
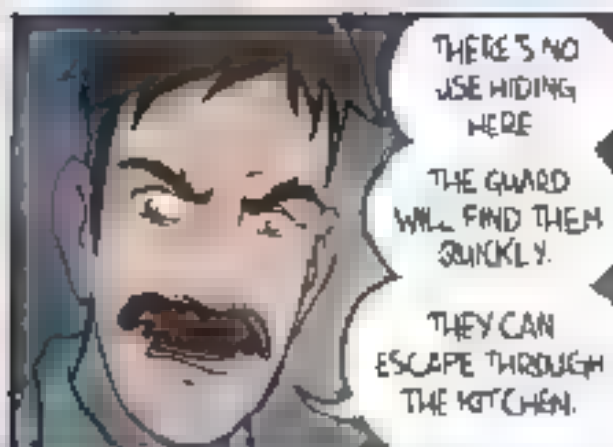


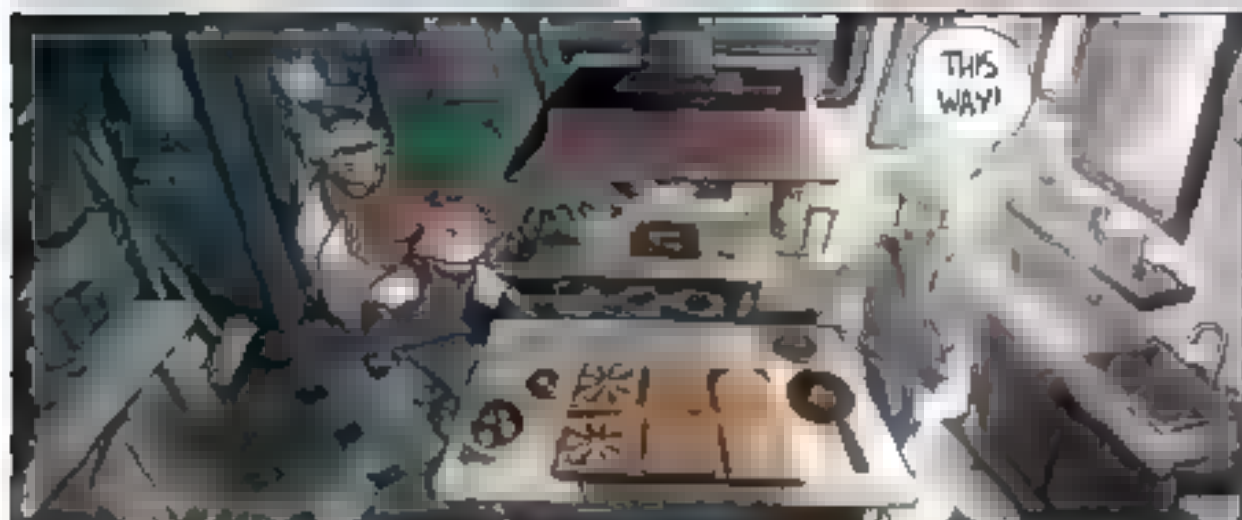
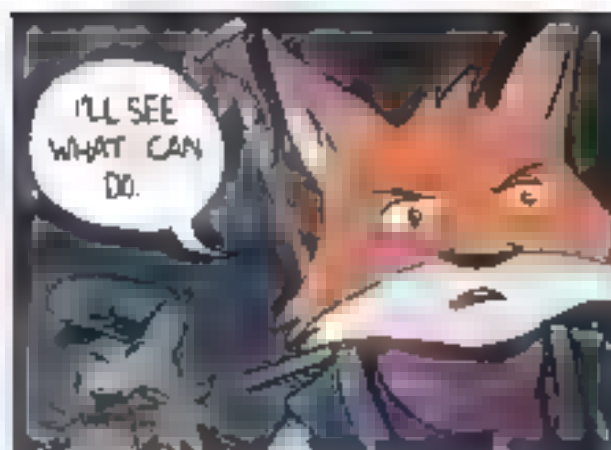


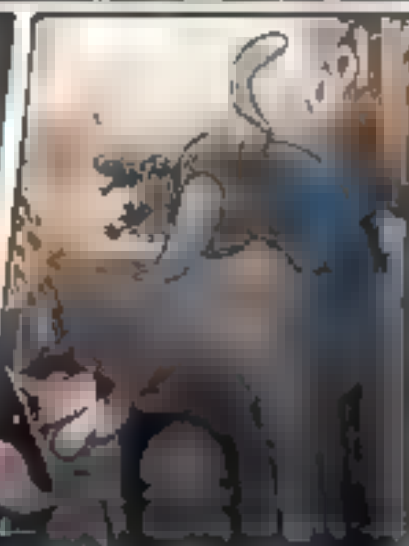


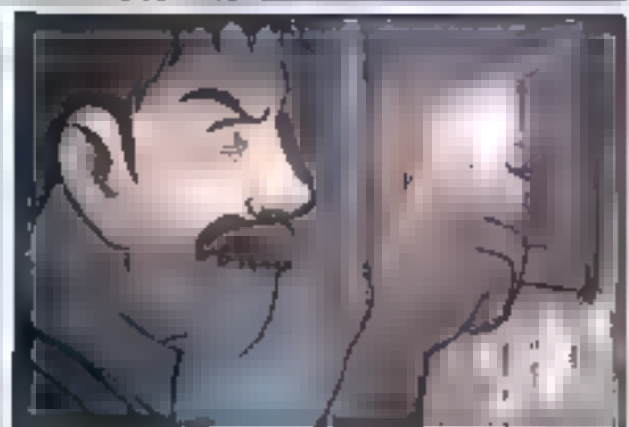
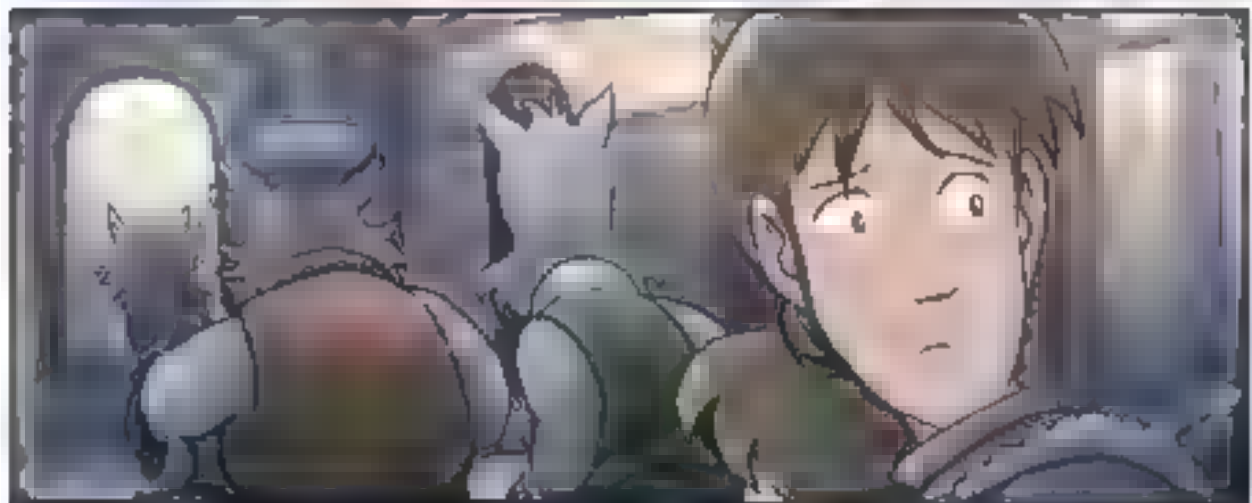
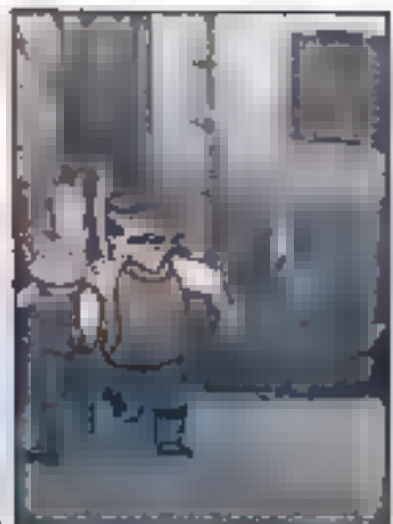


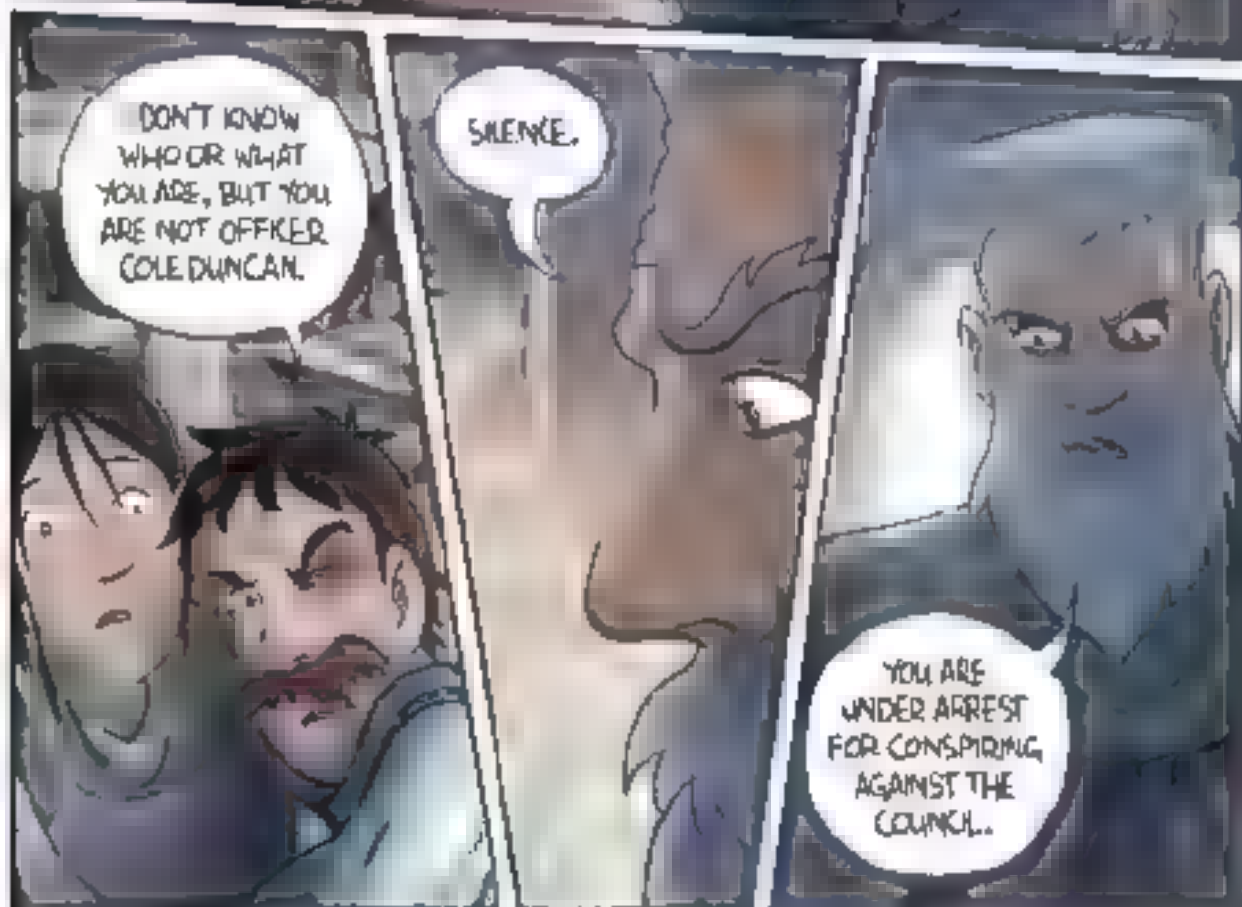
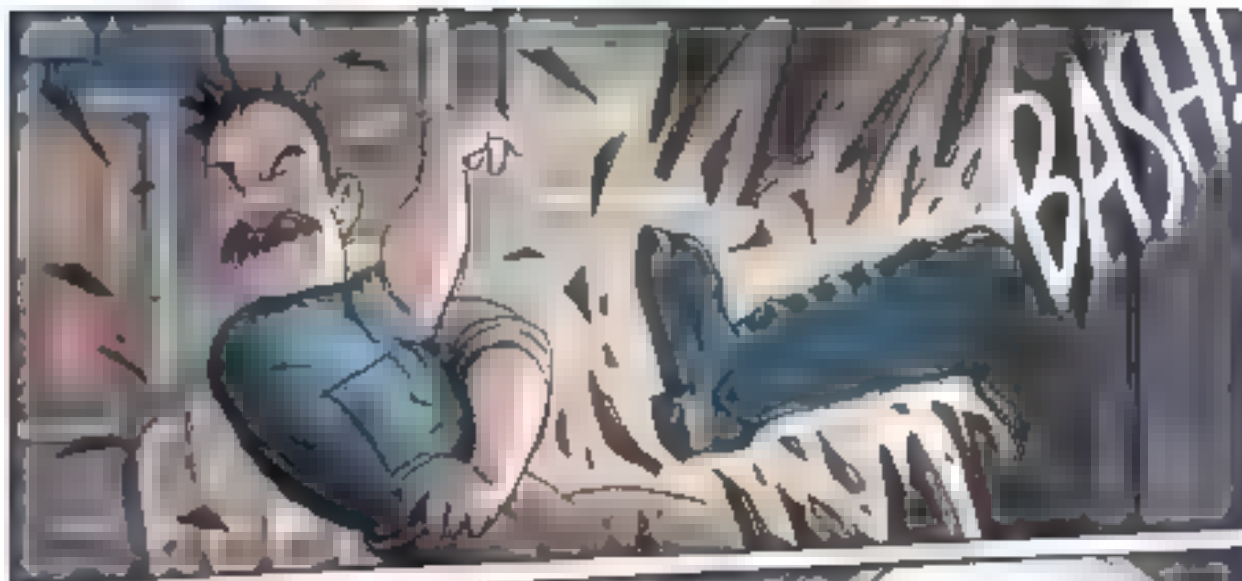






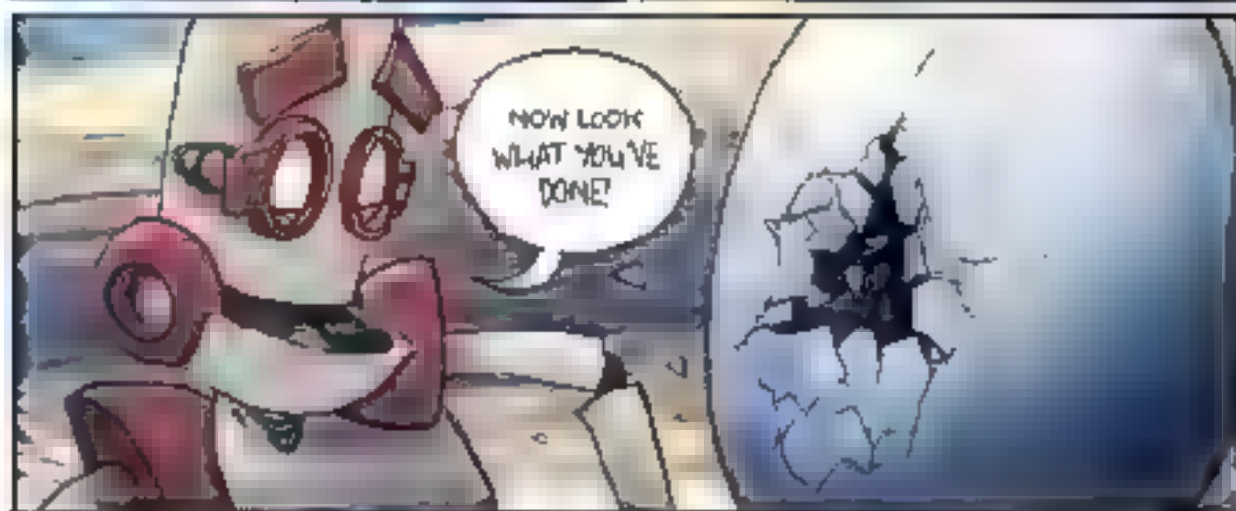
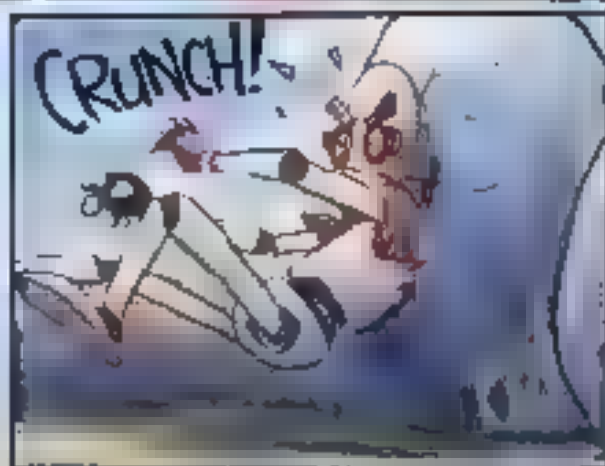
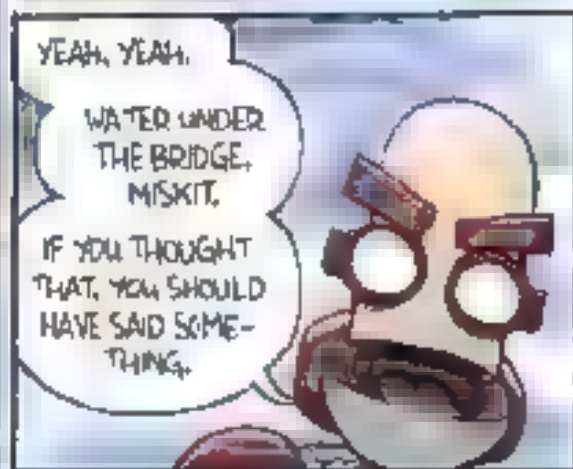
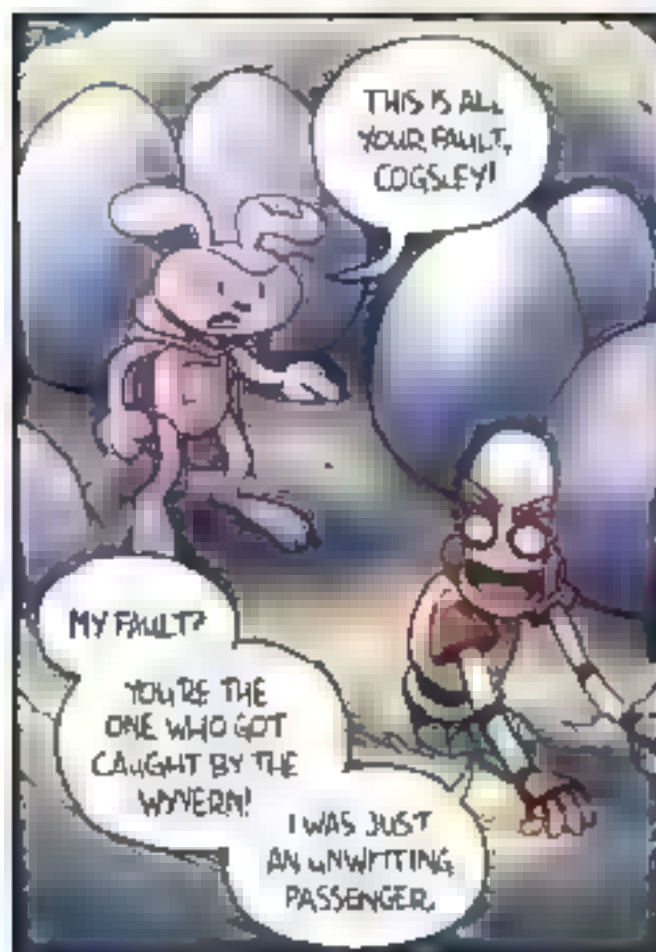


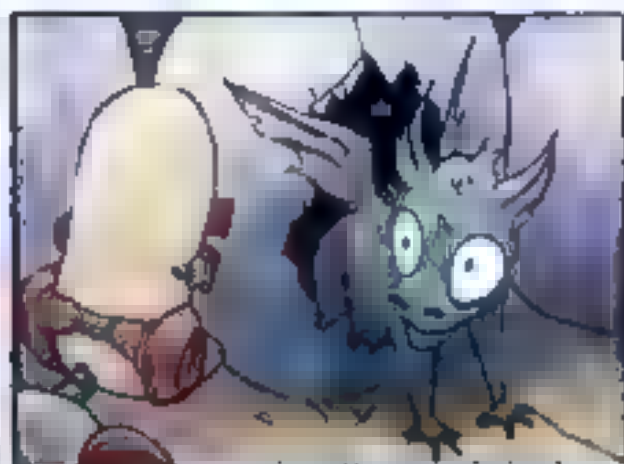
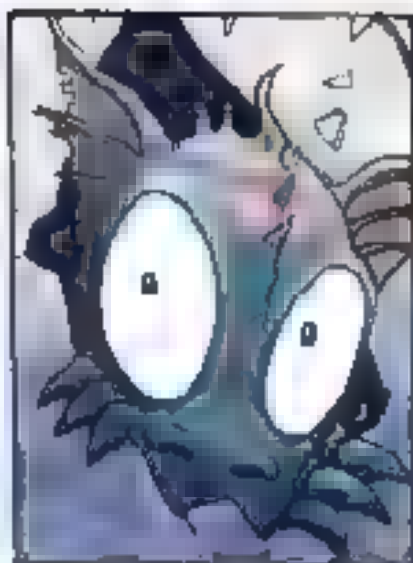




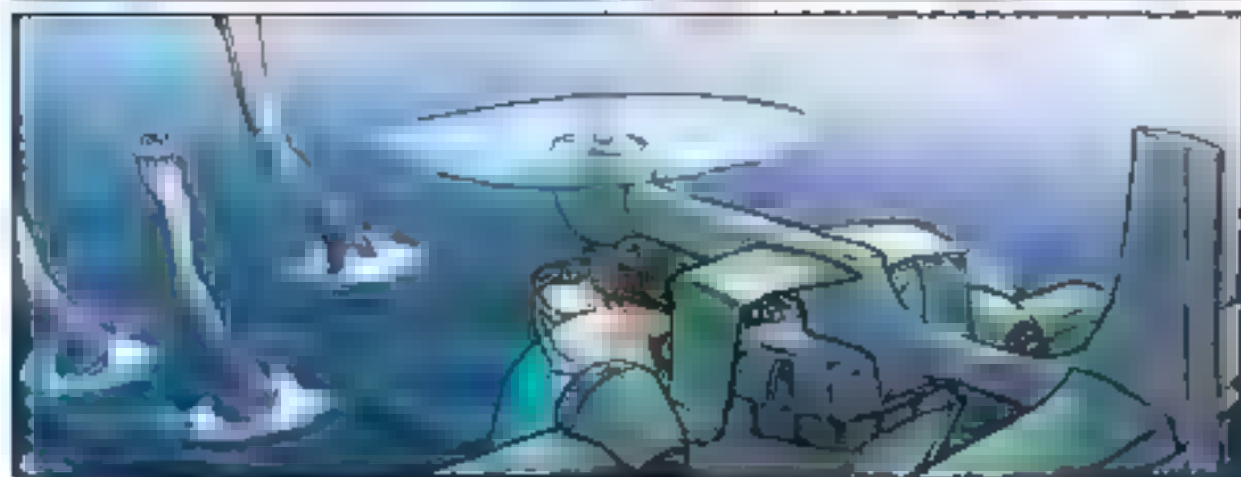


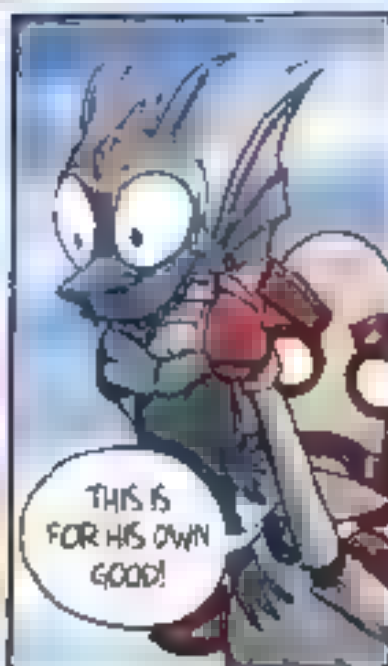
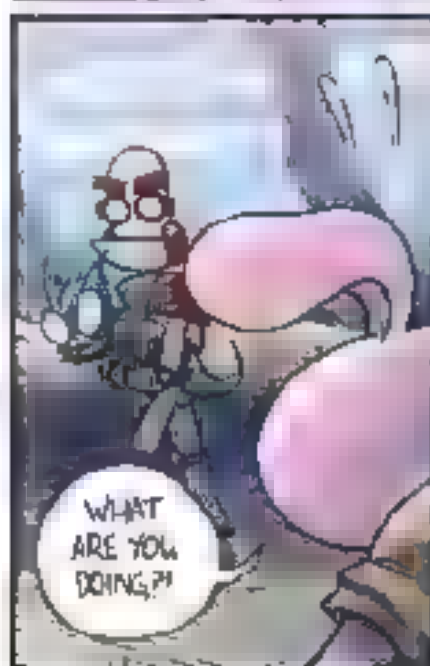


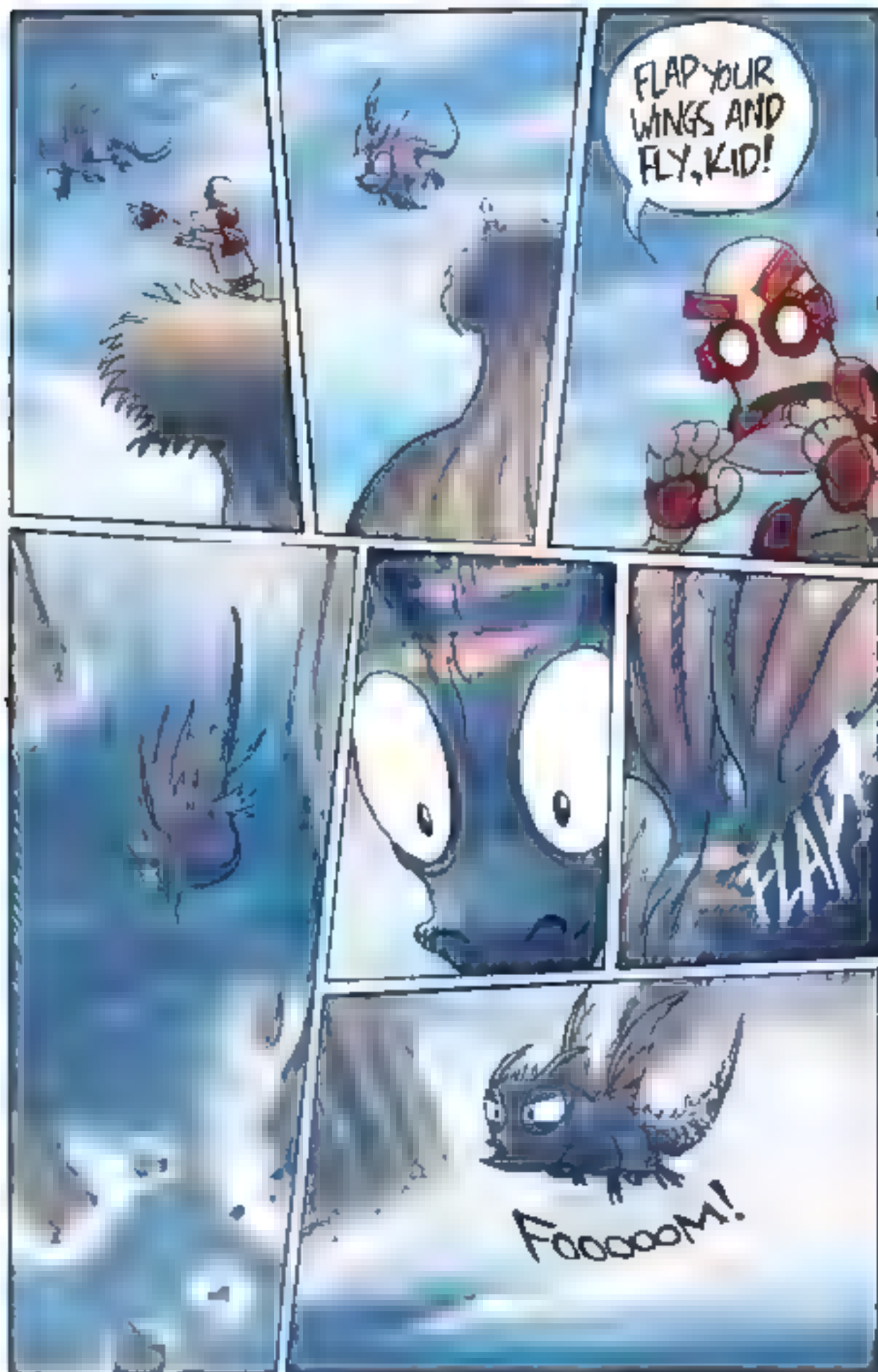


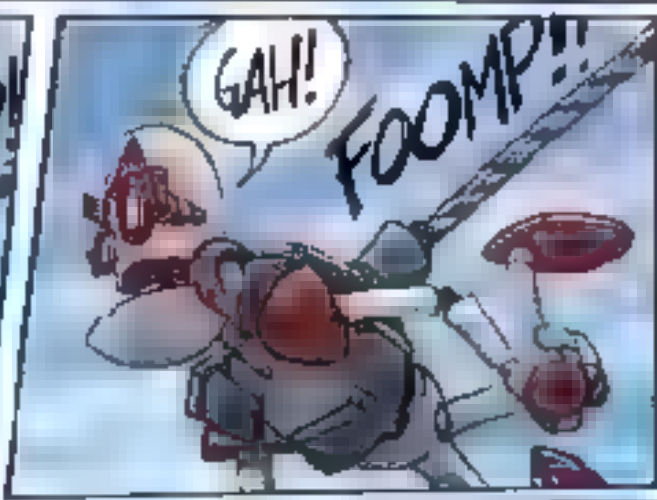
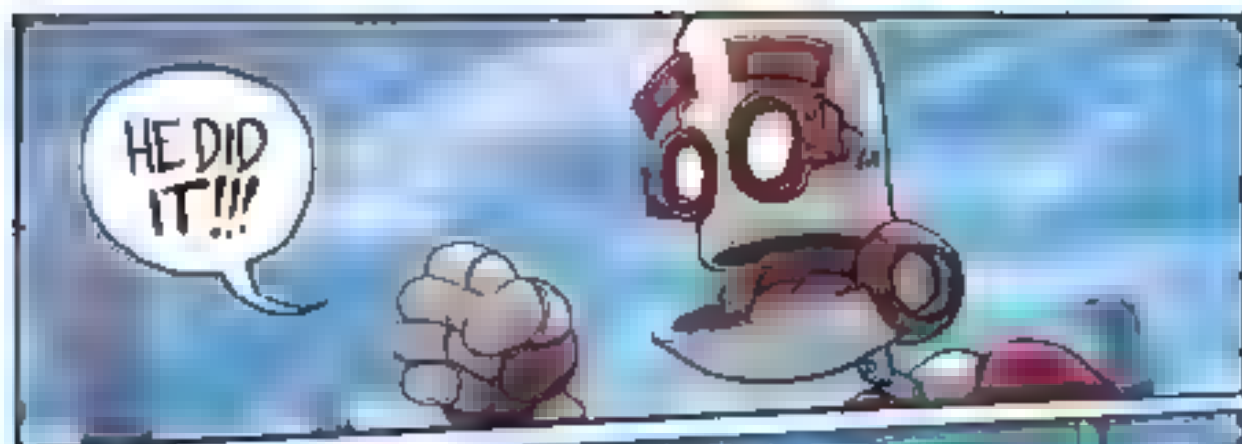


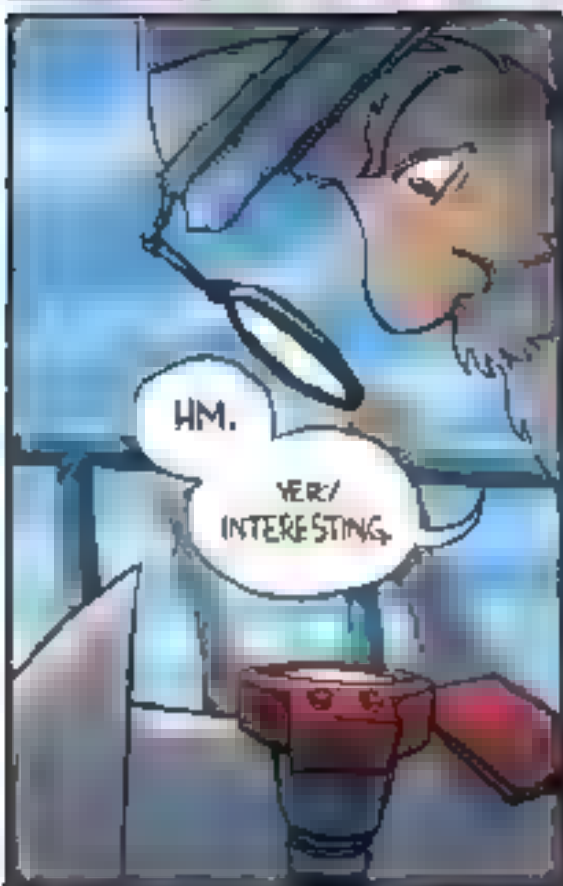


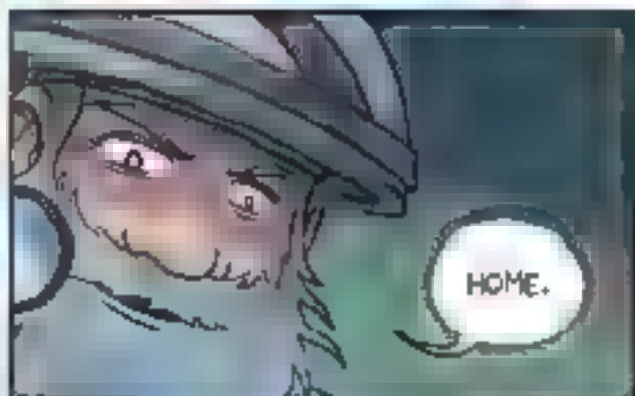






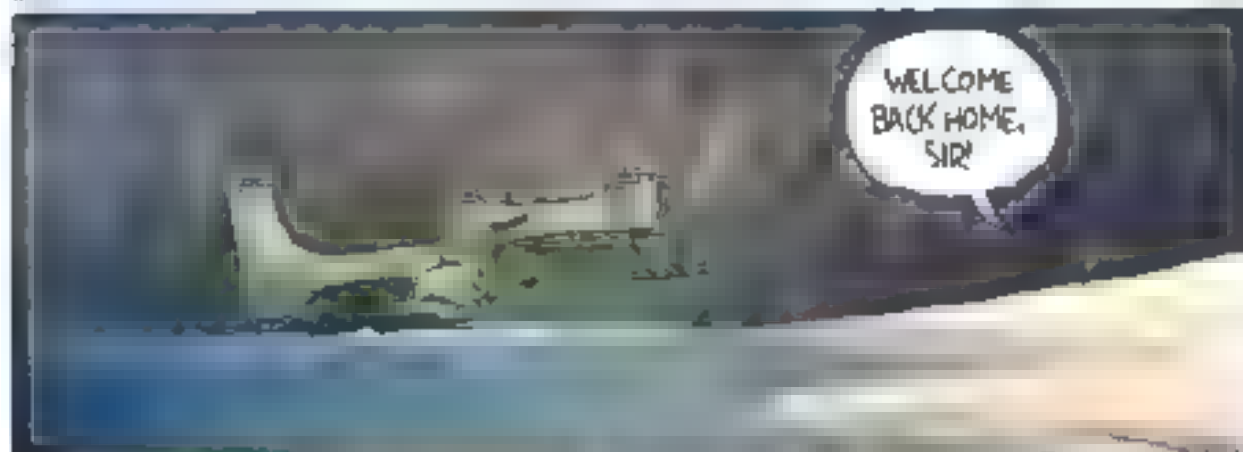












WELCOME
BACK HOME,
SIR!



CECIL,
WE HAVE A
COUPLE OF
NEW RECRUITS.



LOAD UP THEIR
MEMORY WITH
A LEARNING
PROGRAM.

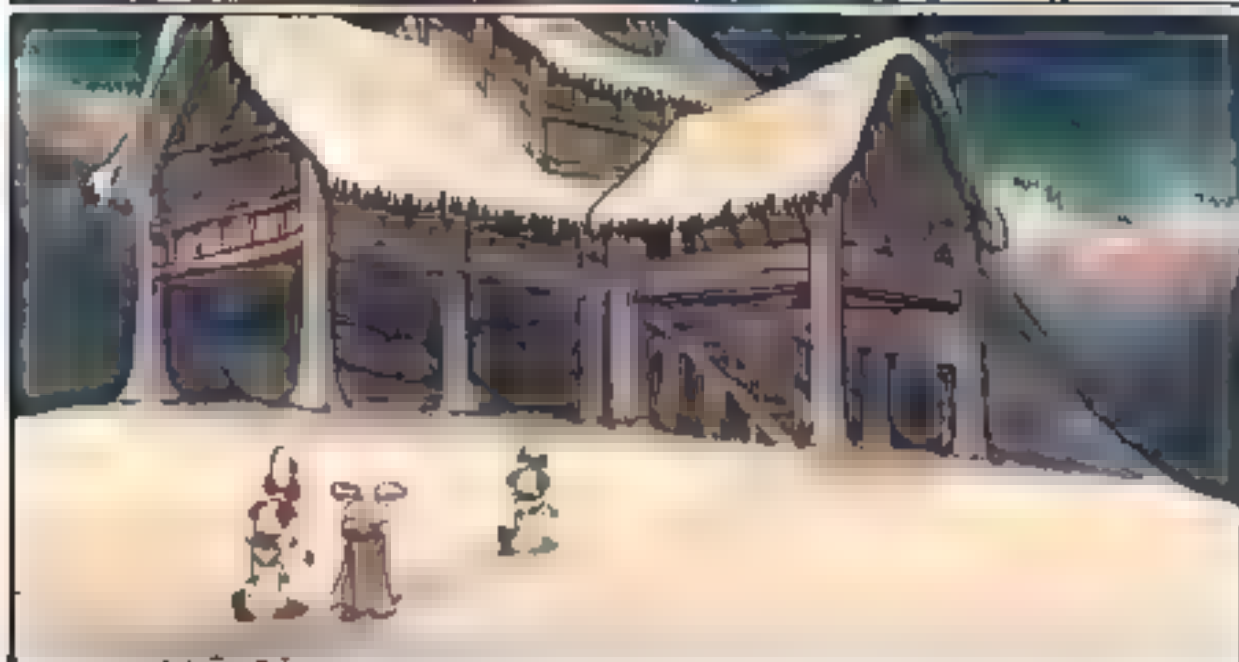
YES,
SIR!

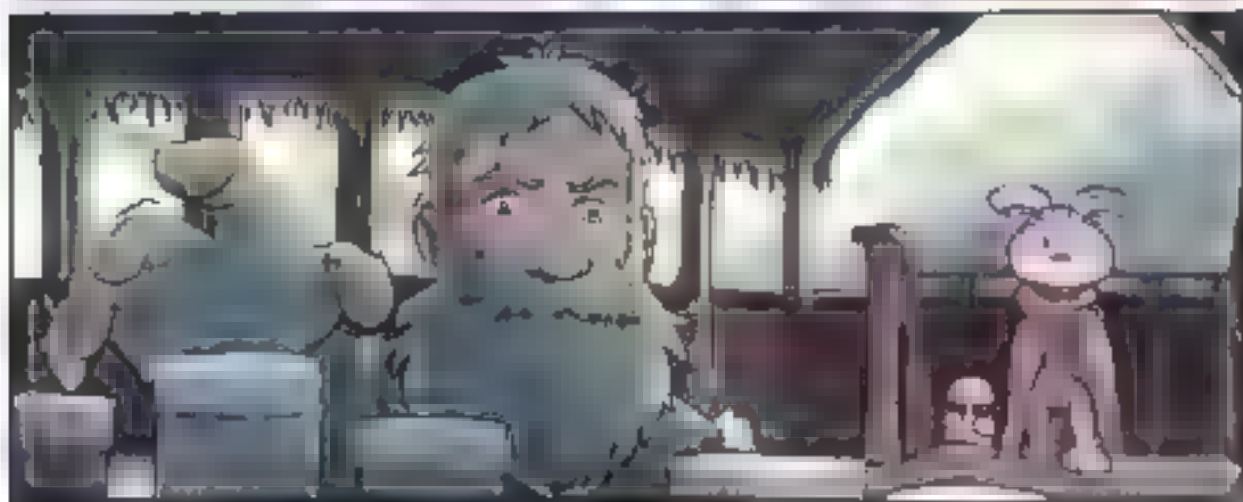


HEY!

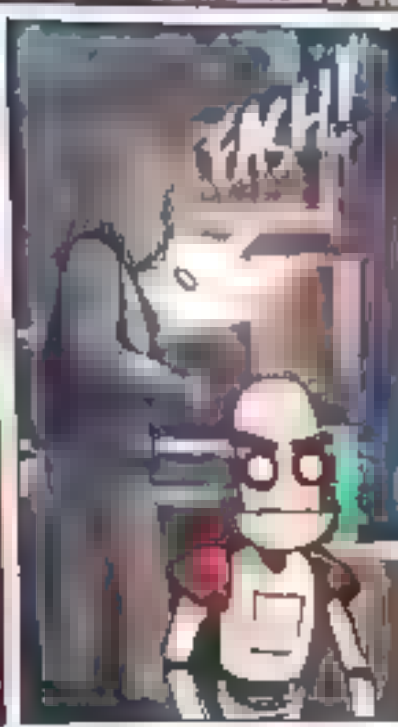
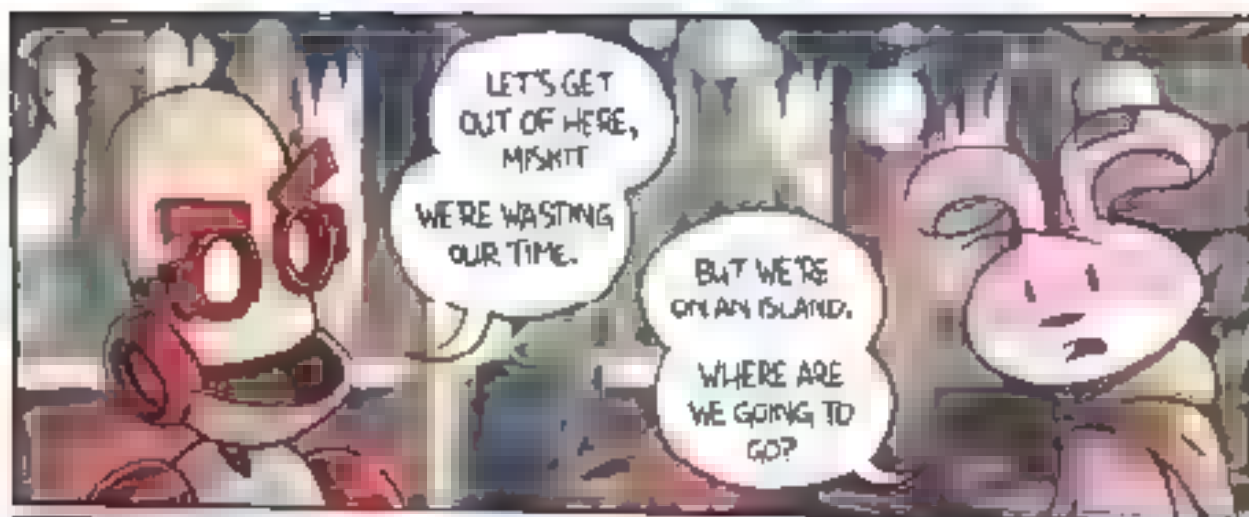
NOBODY'S LOADING
ANYTHING INTO
OUR BRAINS!

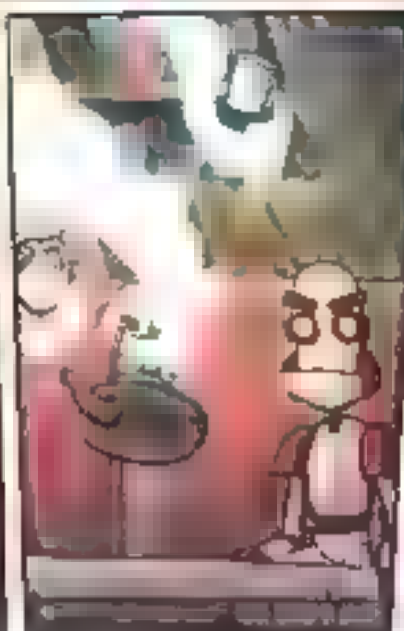
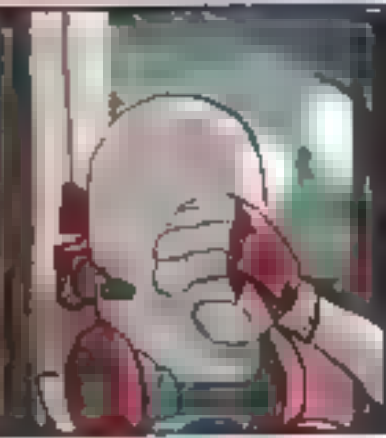


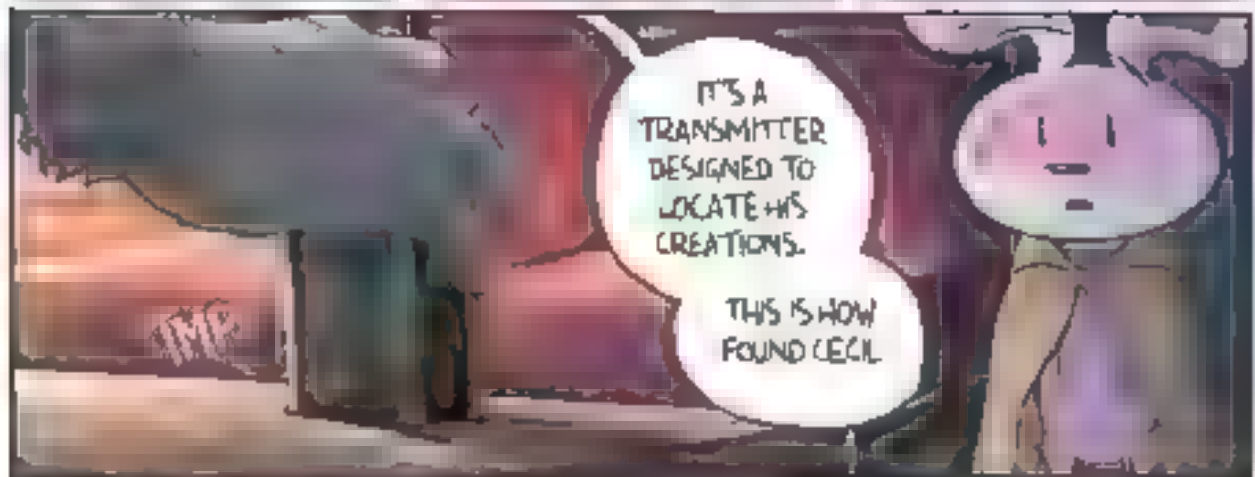


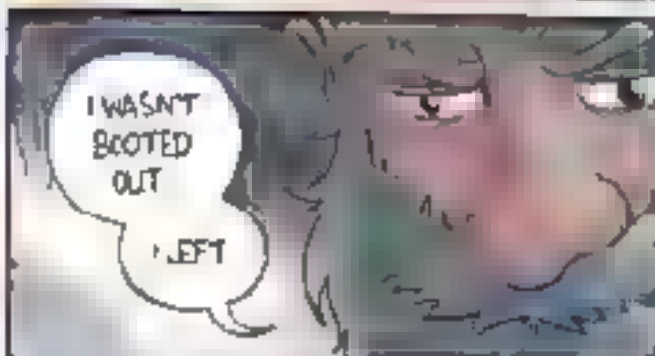


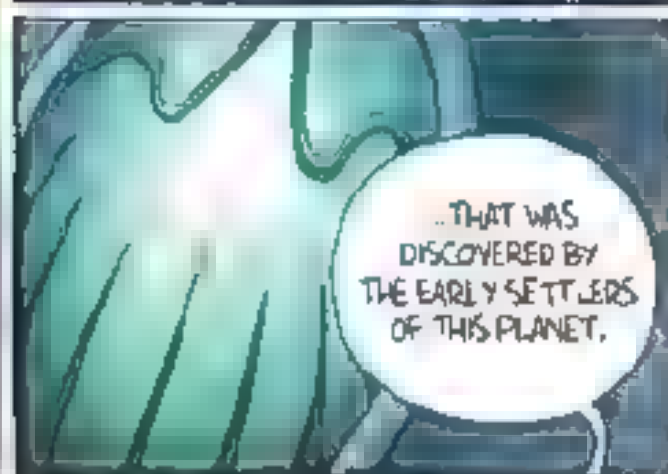












REALIZING THAT THE MOTHER STONE
CONTAINED TREMENDOUS ENERGY, THE
SETTLERS BURIED IT DEEP BENEATH
THEIR FIRST CITY.



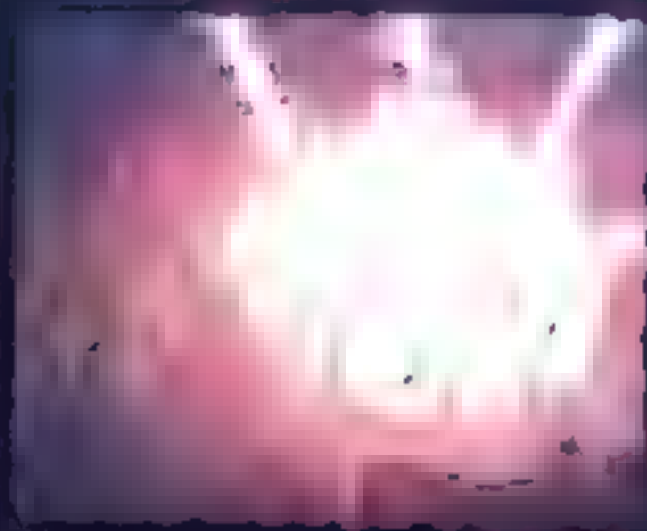
CELIS, THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF WINDSOR.



THE ORIGINAL GUARDIAN COUNCIL WAS
CREATED TO GOVERN USE OF THE
MOTHER STONE. SMALL BITS OF THE
POWERFUL GEM WERE CUT AND PRO-
VIDED TO THE EARLY SETTLERS OF
ALLEDIA TO HELP THEM DEVELOP OUR
WORLD.



CENTURIES PASSED, AND HUNDREDS OF
STONEKEEPERS WERE BORN. WITH THEIR
POWERS, THEY BUILT THE FOUNDATION
FOR THE GREAT NATIONS OF ALLEDIA,
AND ACCELERATED THE DEVELOPMENT
OF CITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.



OF COURSE, MORE THAN A FEW
STONEKEEPERS ABUSED THE IMMENSE
POWER THAT THE STONES PROVIDED
THEM, AND WAGED WAR ON OTHER
STONEKEEPERS FOR CONTROL OF THE
NATIONS. MANY STONEKEEPERS PER-
ISHED IN THESE BATTLES, AND THEIR
STONES PERISHED WITH THEM.

BY THE TIME I HAD JOINED THE COUNCIL, ONLY A SMALL SHARD OF THE STONE REMAINED. IT WAS DECIDED THAT CUTTING THE FINAL PIECE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO CALL ON ITS POWERS TO HELP DEFEND CELLS AND THE NATION OF WINDSOR. IT WAS CONSIDERED A LAST RESORT.



YOUR MASTER SILAS FELT THAT IF WE WERE NOT GOING TO USE THE STONE IMMEDIATELY, WE SHOULD DESTROY IT BEFORE IT FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

TO TREAT IT AS AN INSURANCE POLICY, HE REASONED, WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

HE CRITICIZED THE COUNCIL FOR MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON ITS FEARS, AND HE BELIEVED THAT IF WE CONTINUED DOWN THIS PATH, WE WOULD SEE OUR FRAMING DISC.



AT THE TIME, I WAS THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

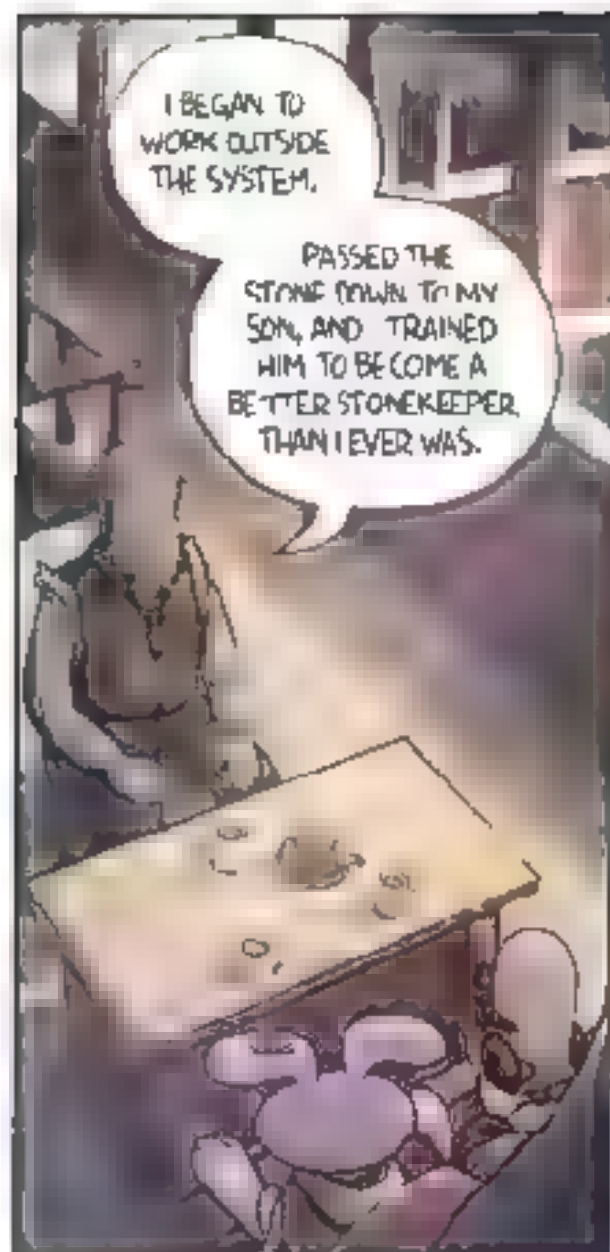
AND DUE TO MY INEXPERIENCE, I MADE SOME DECISIONS THAT I WOULD REGRET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

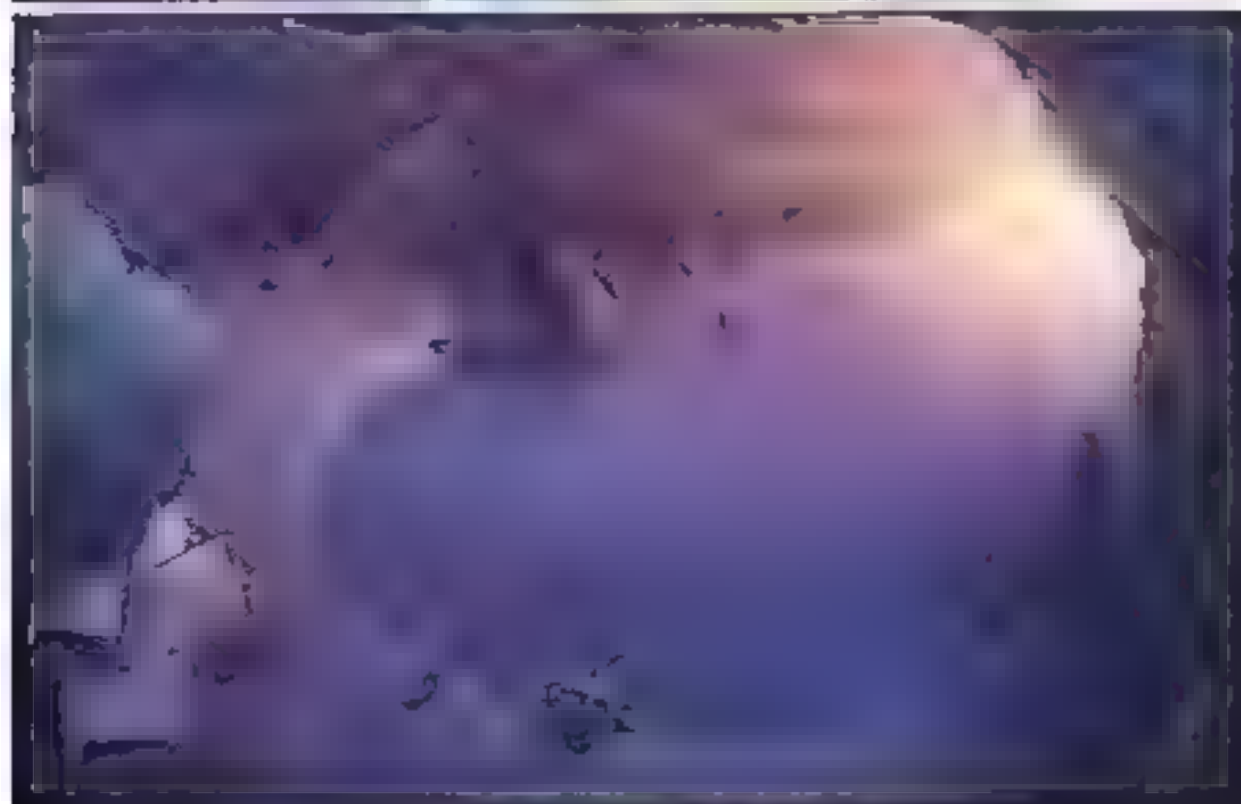
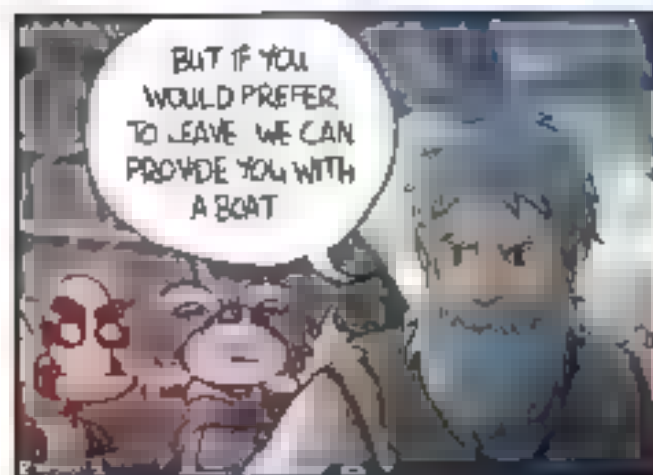


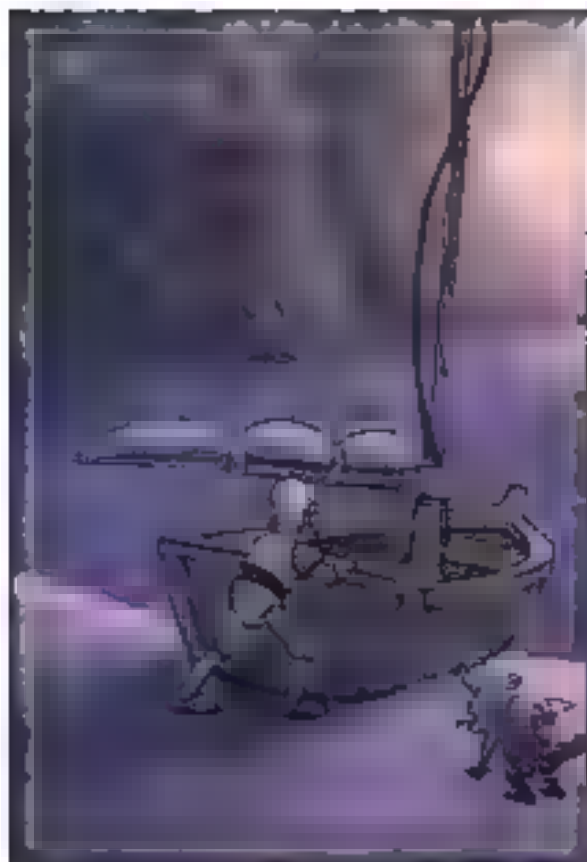
THE FIRST SUCH DECISION WAS TO VOTE IN
FAVOR OF REMOVING SILAS FROM THE COUNCIL.

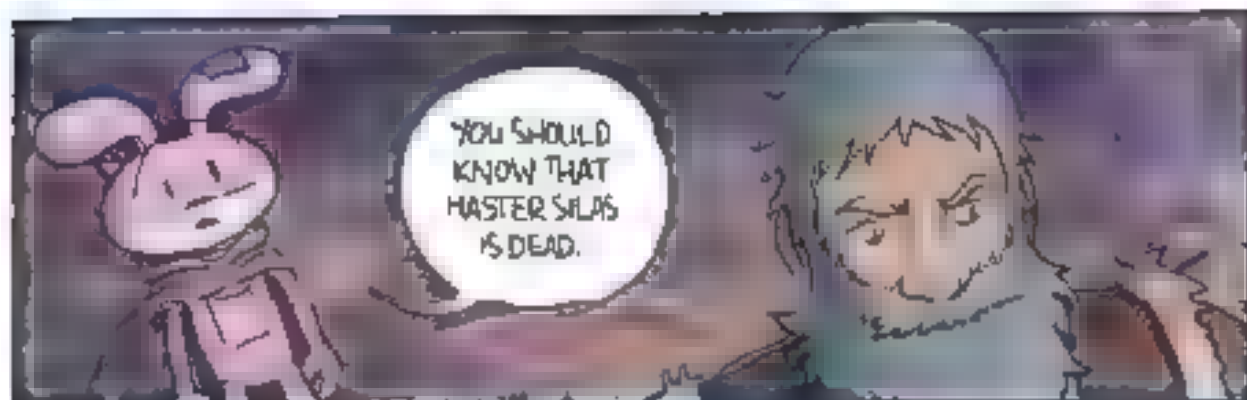
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE ELVES
UNLEASHED A DEVASTATING ATTACK ON
CIELIS AND FORCED THE COUNCIL TO HIDE
THE CITY IN THE CLOUDS.

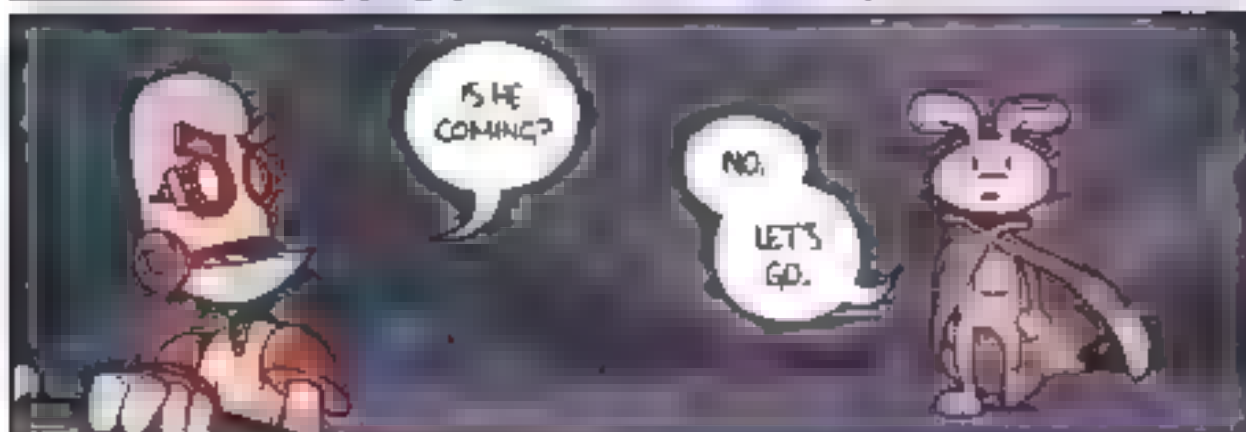


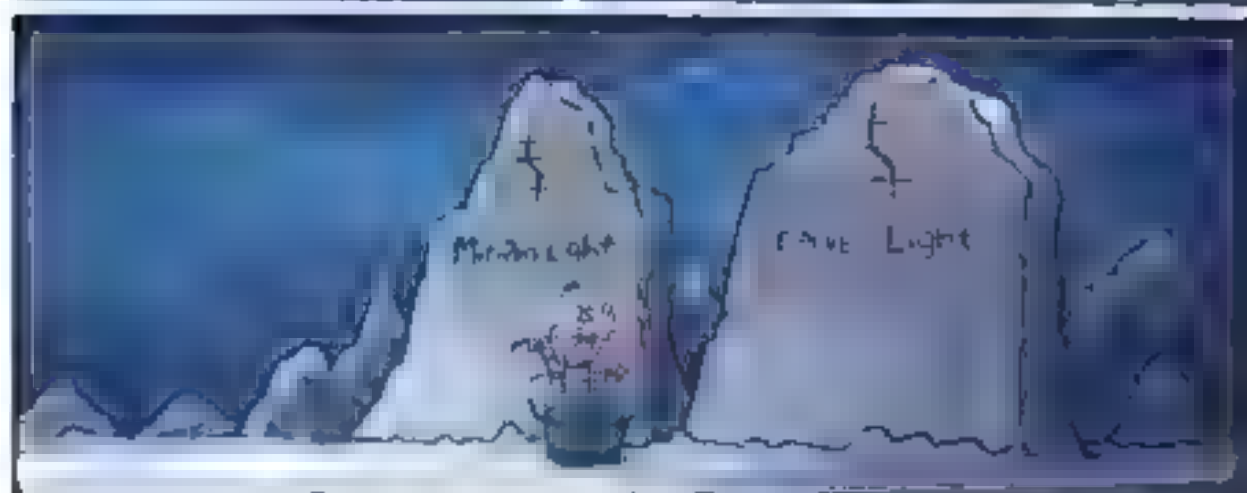


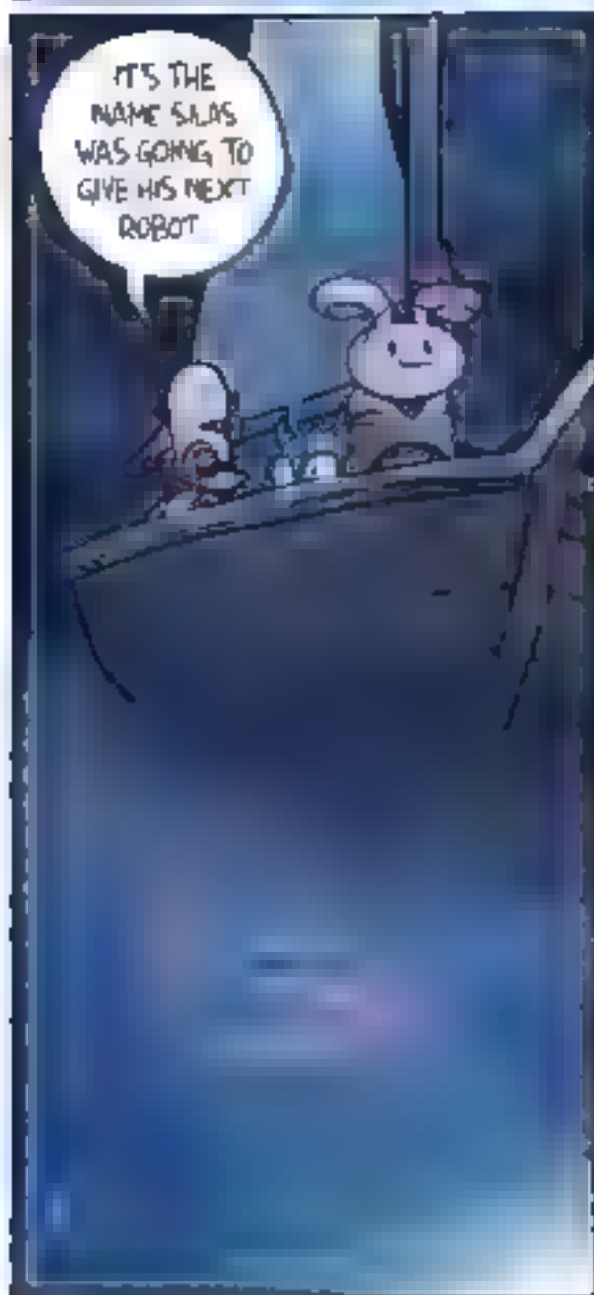


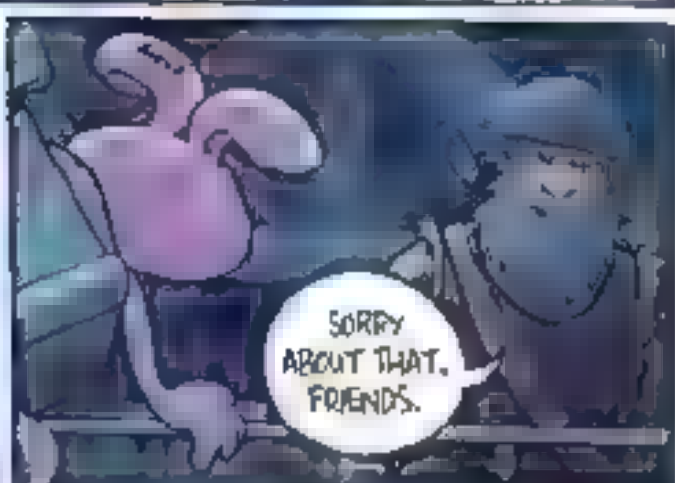
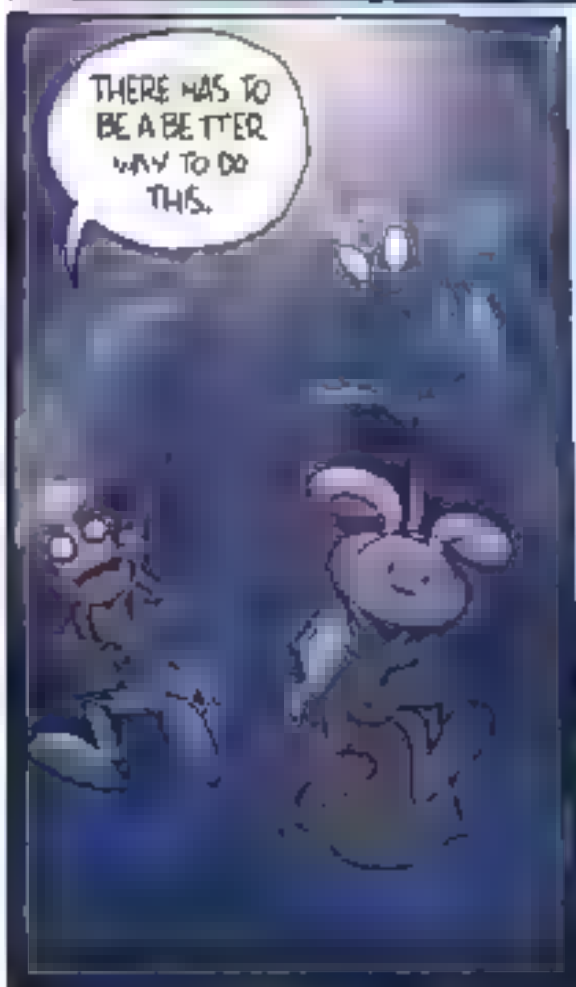
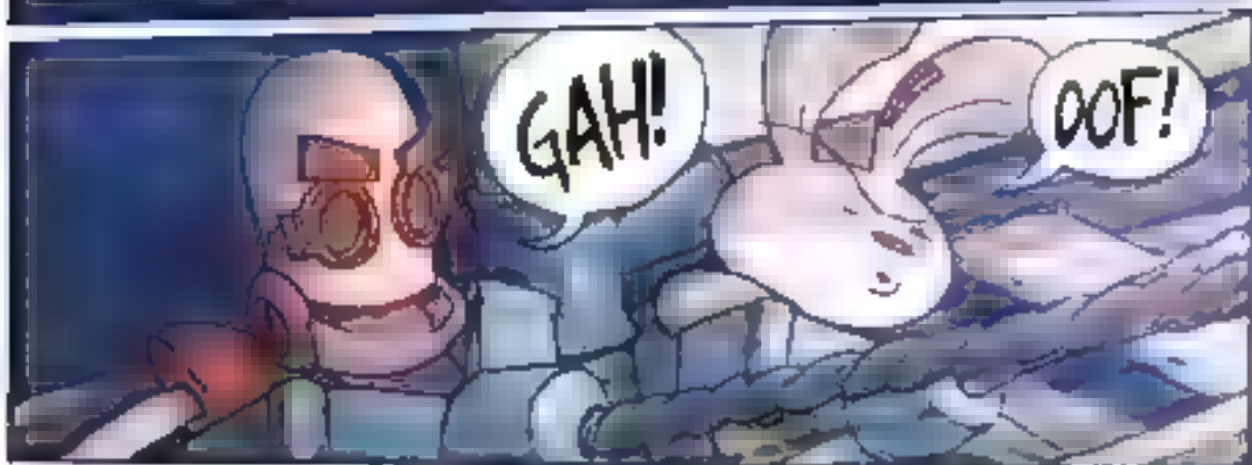


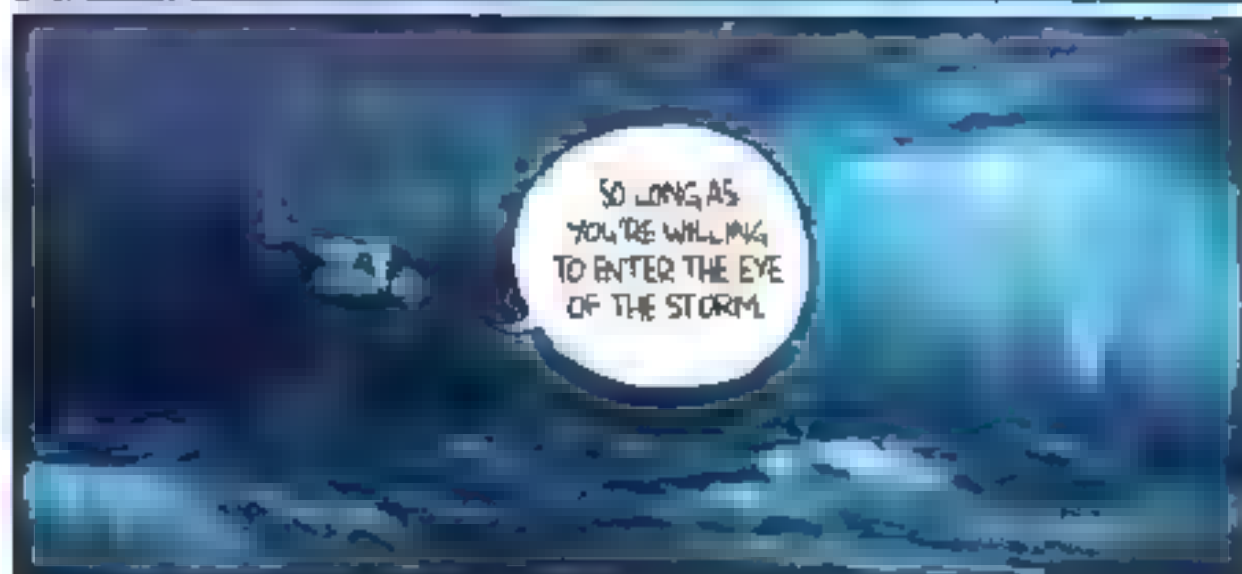
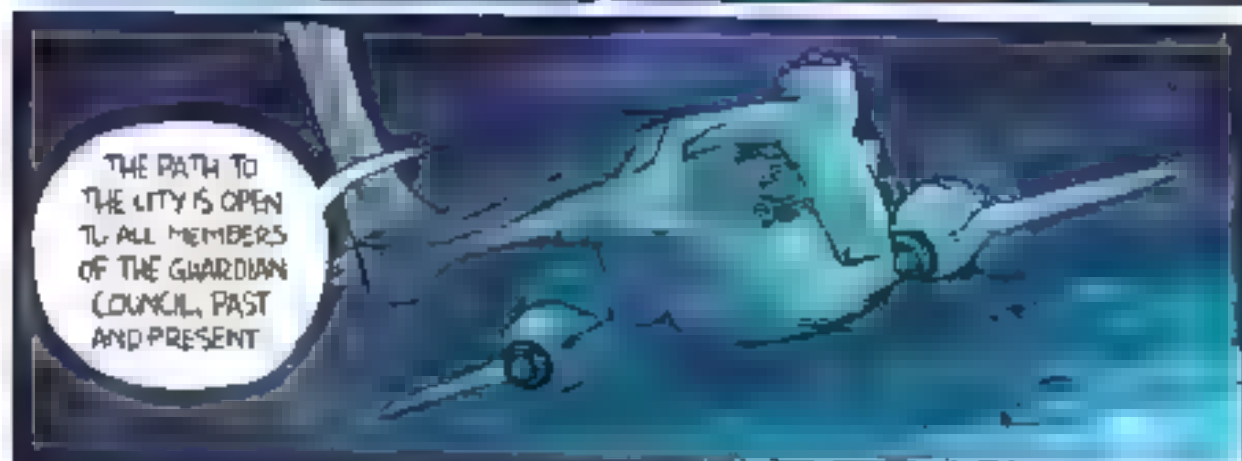


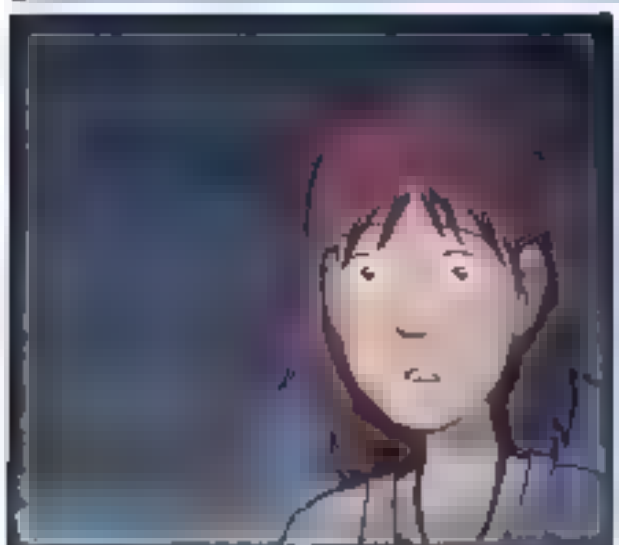
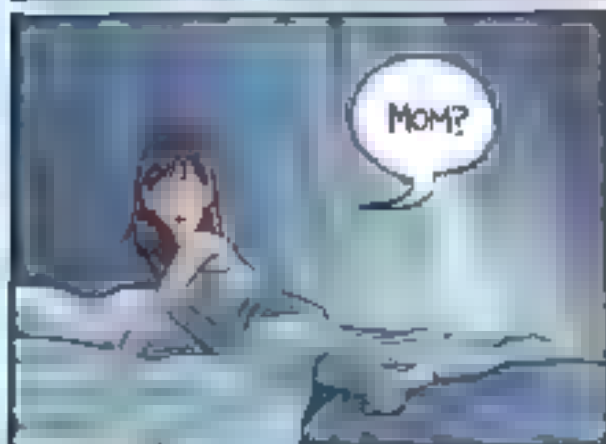


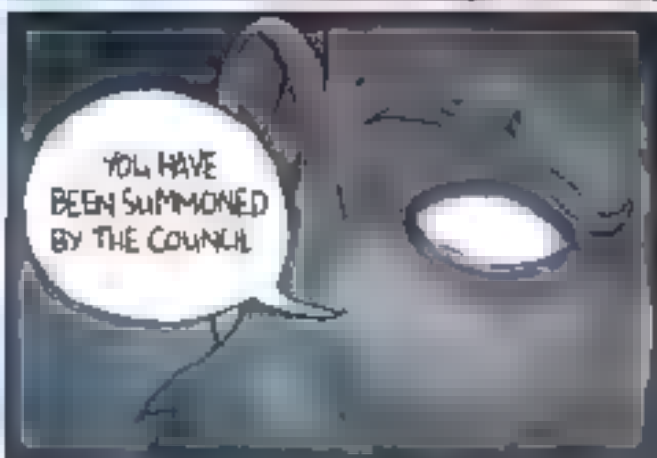


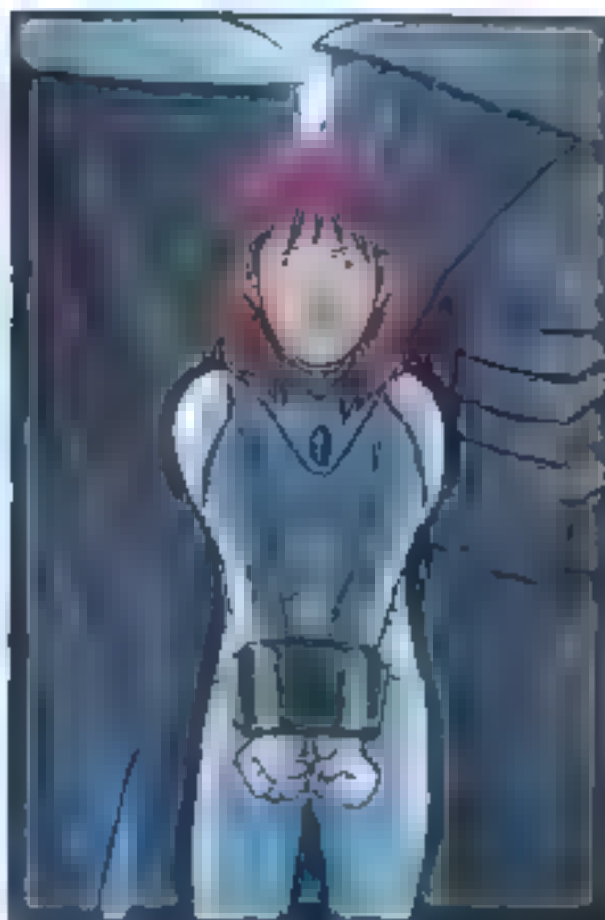
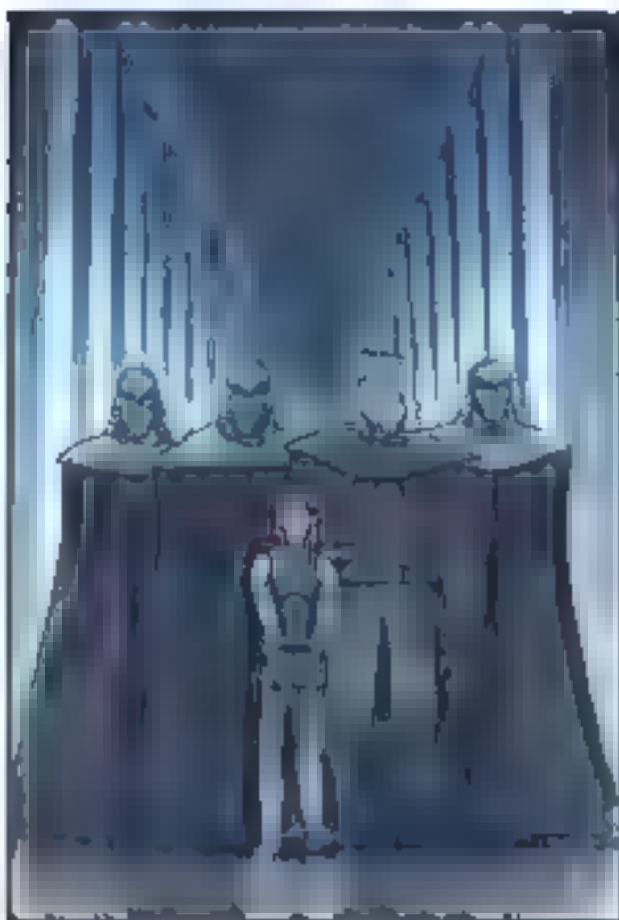


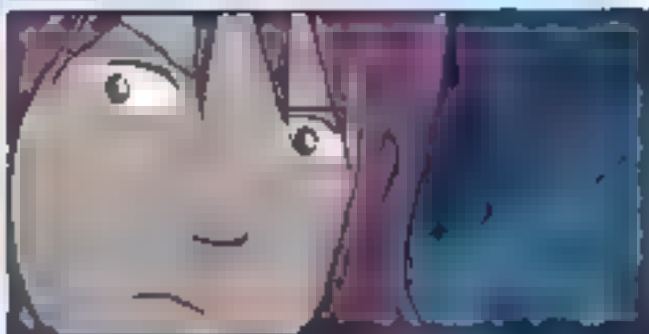
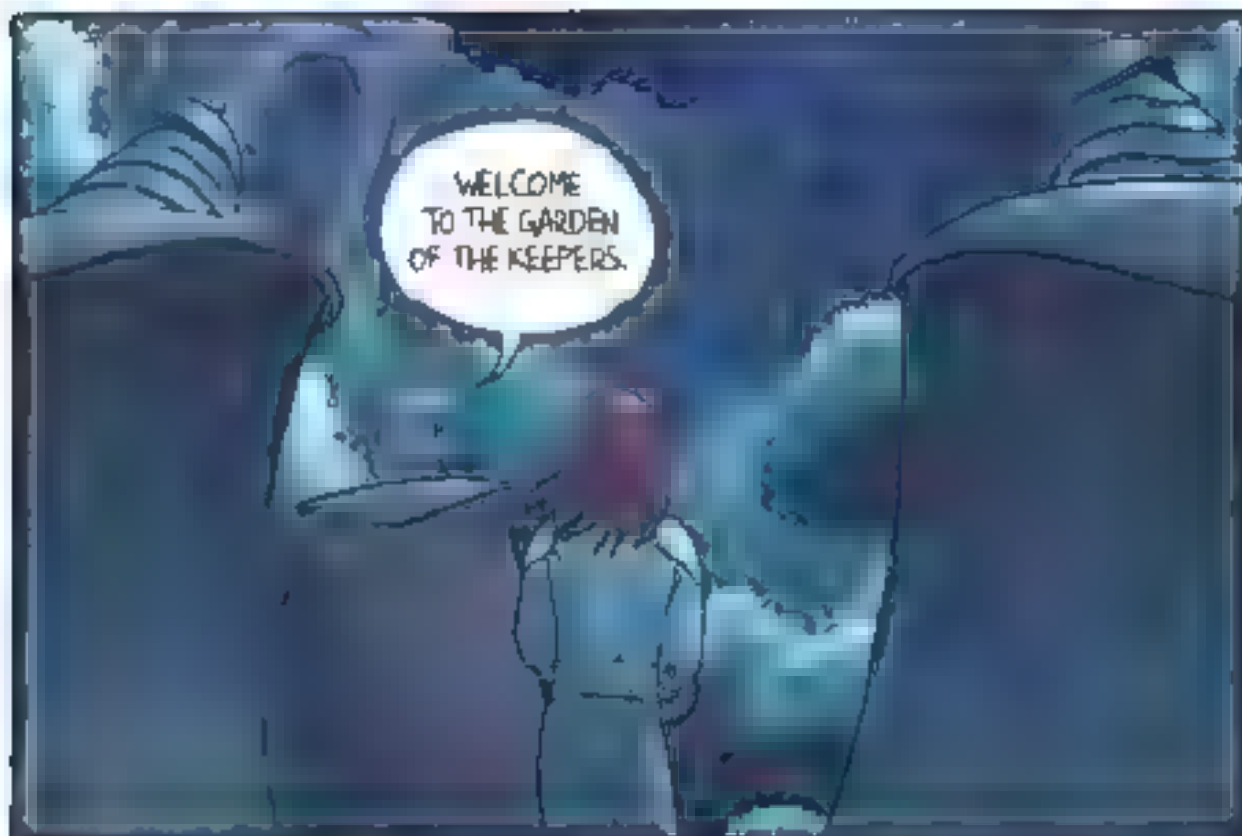


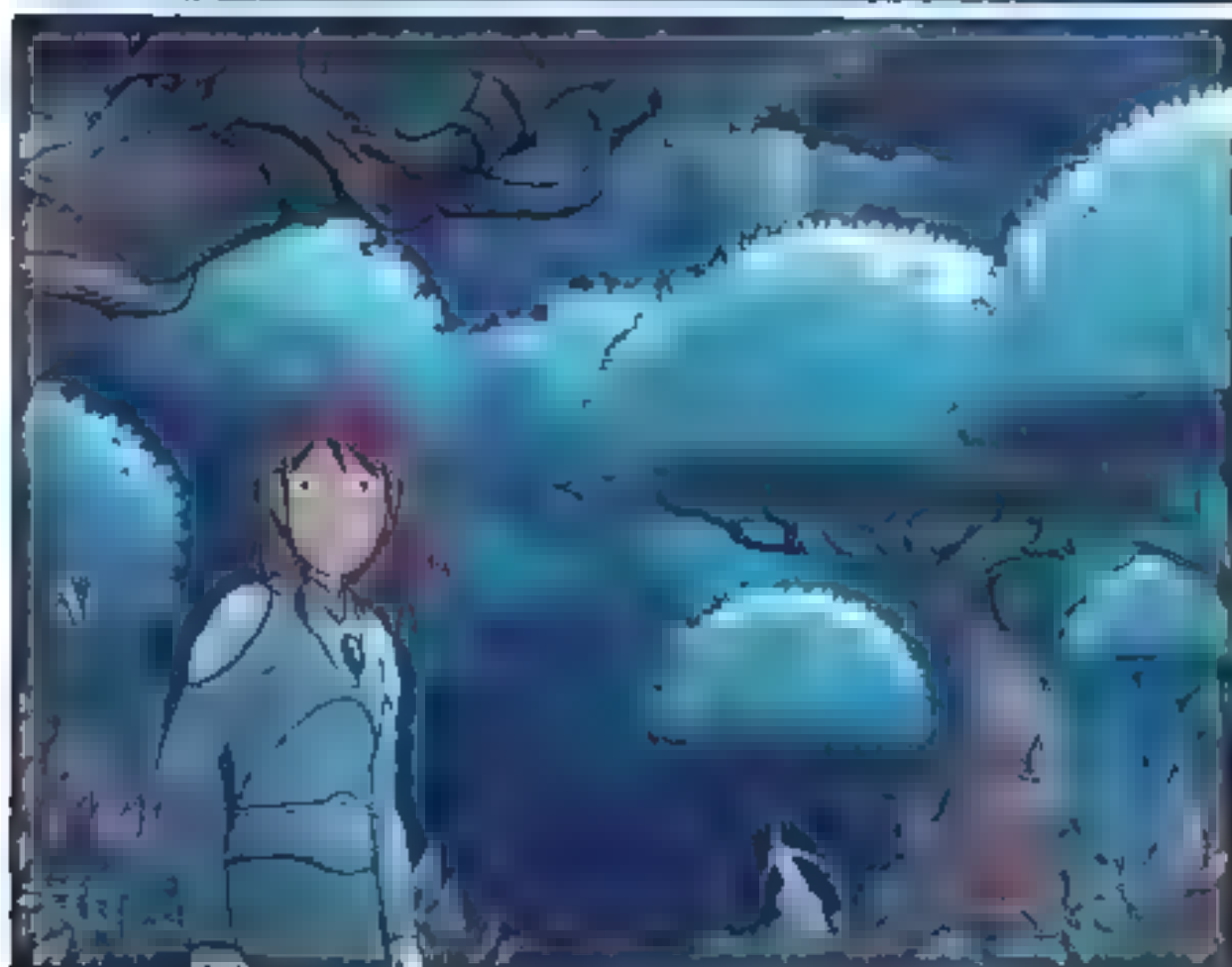


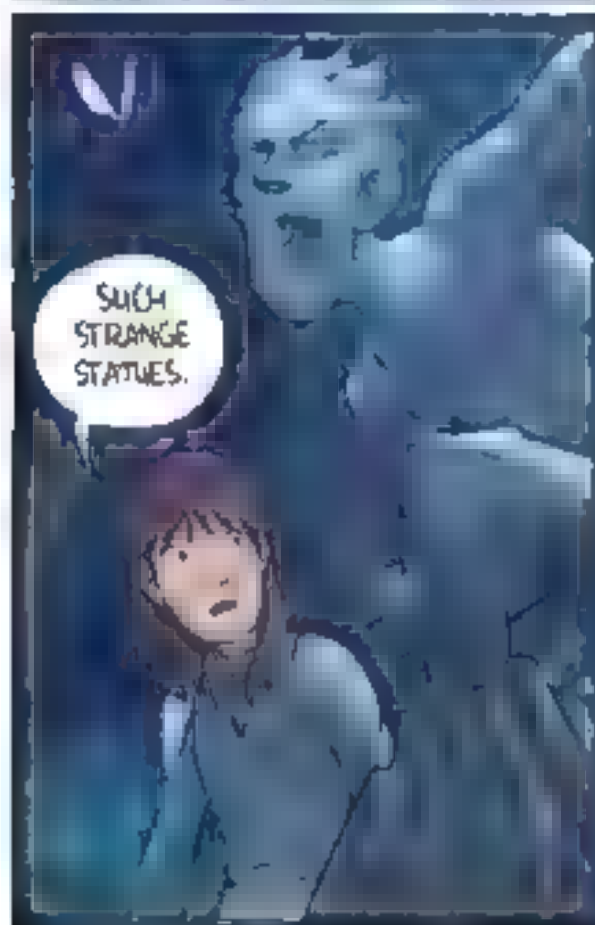
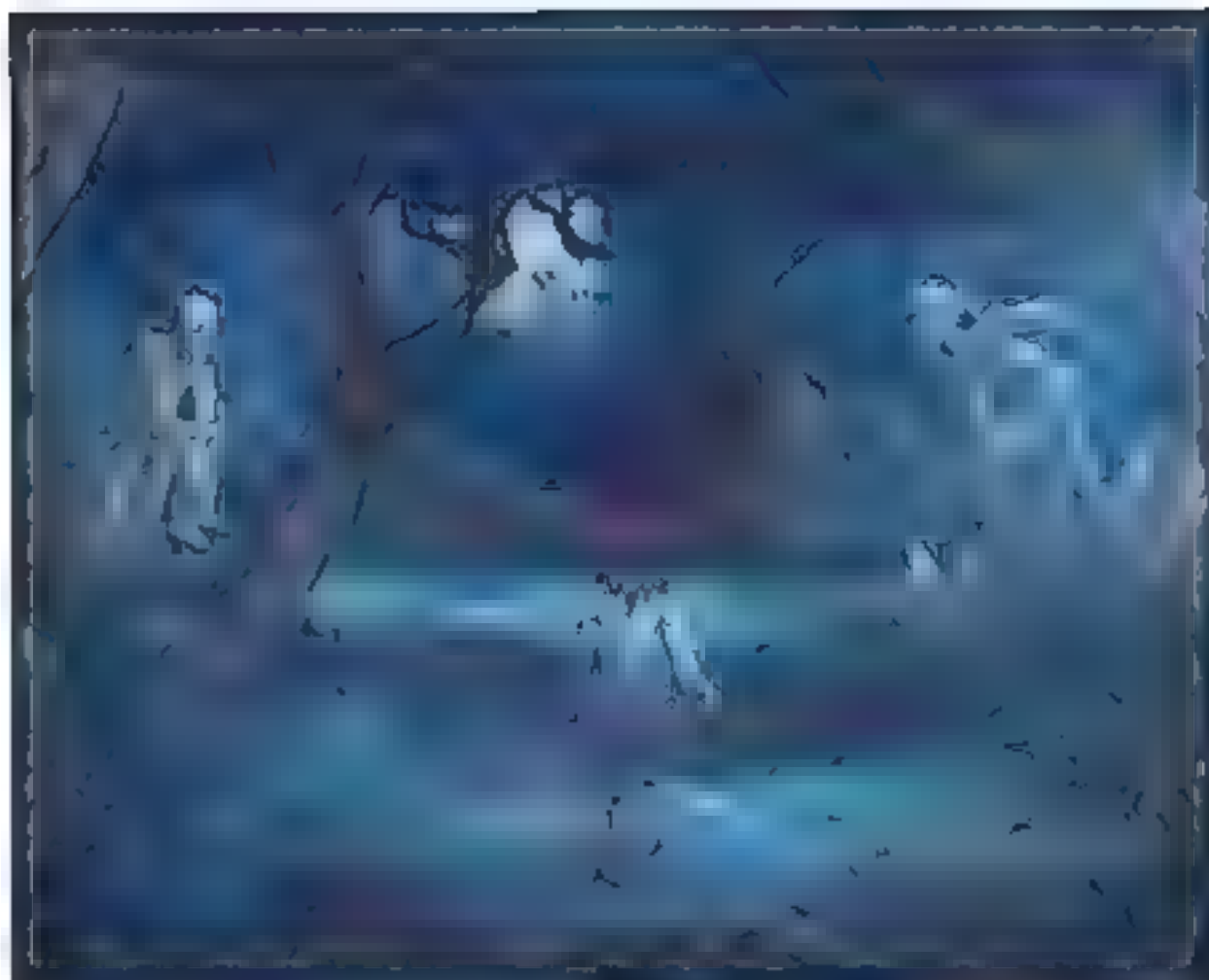


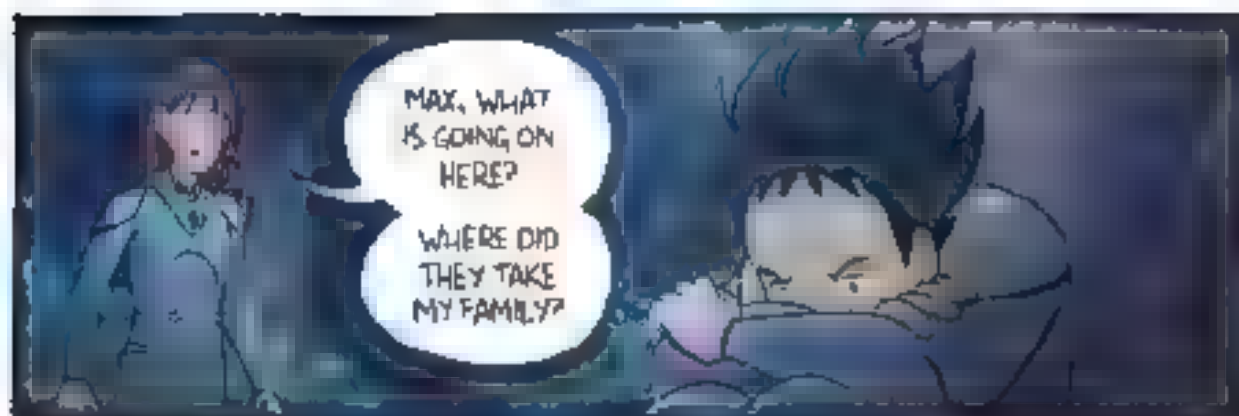


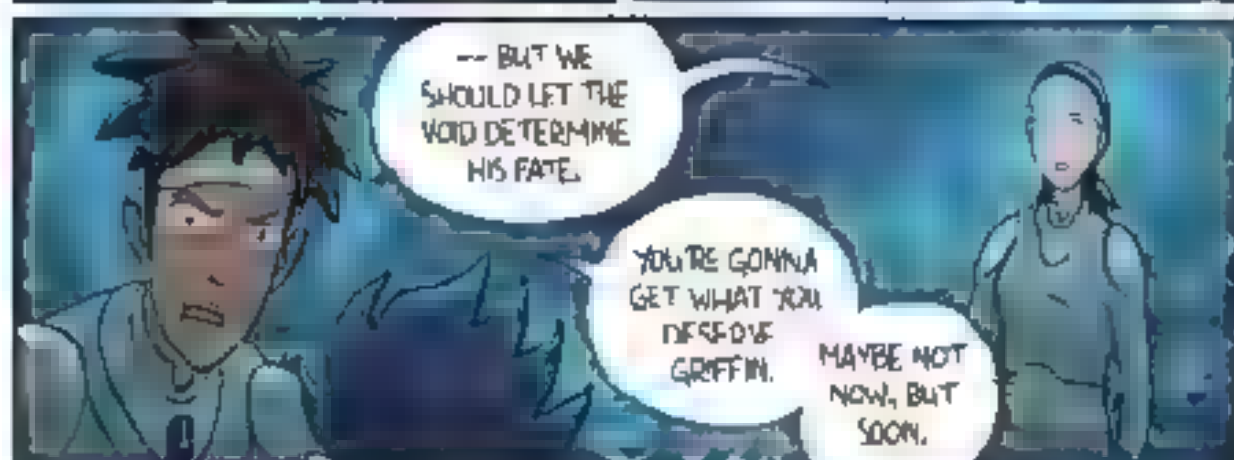
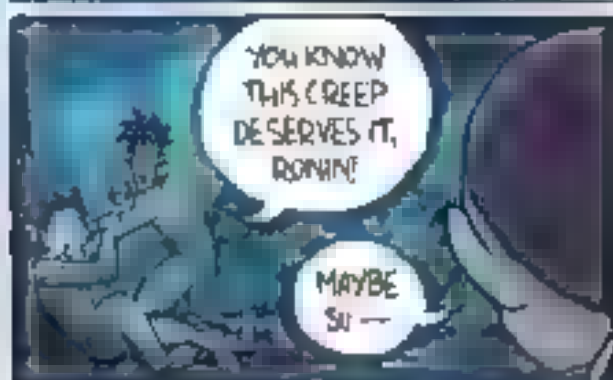
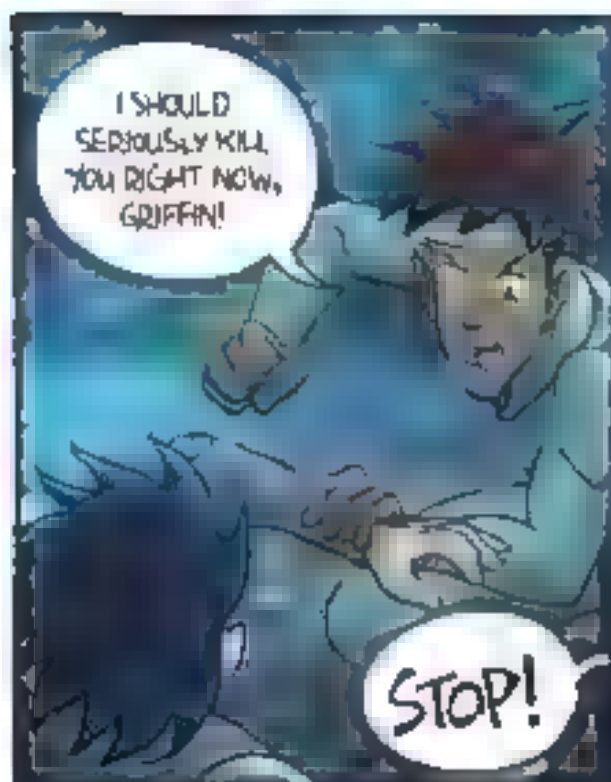


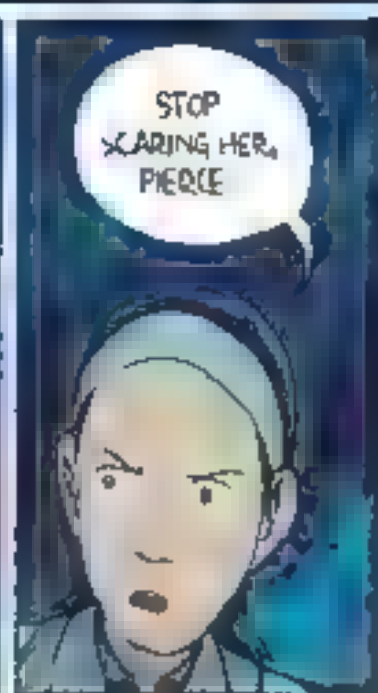
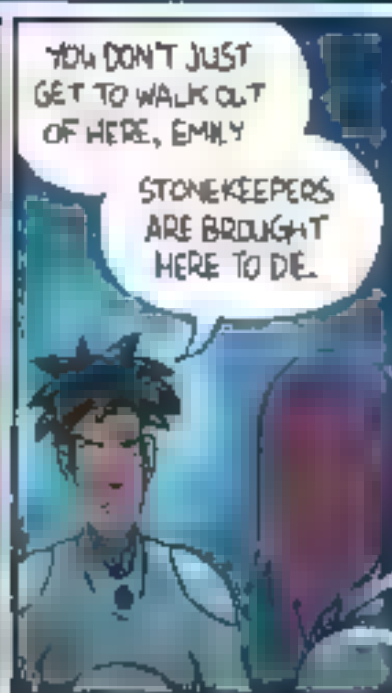
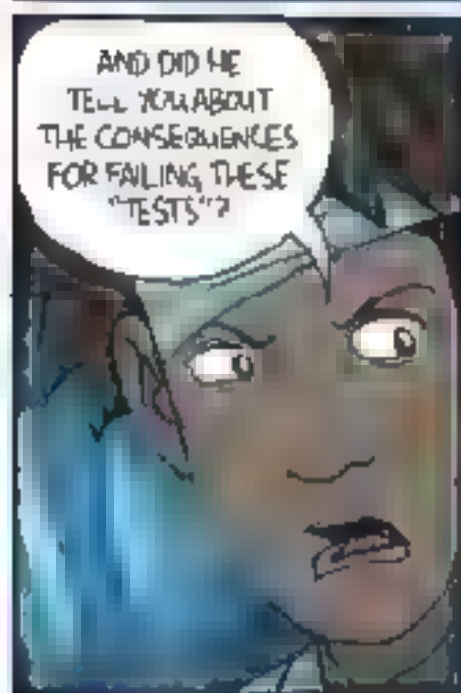


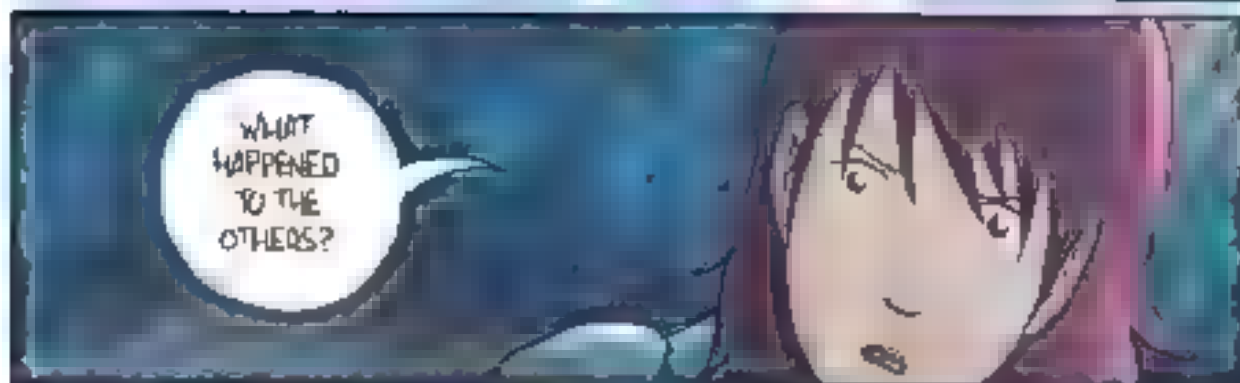


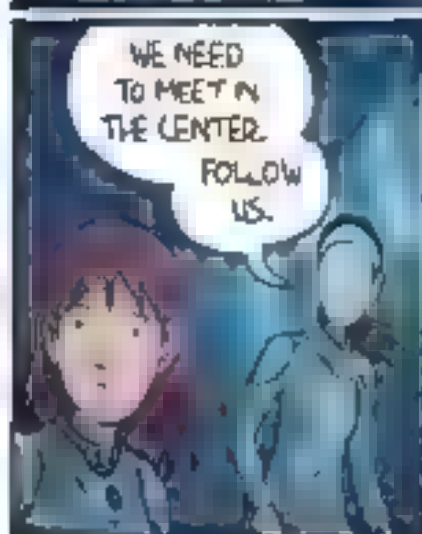
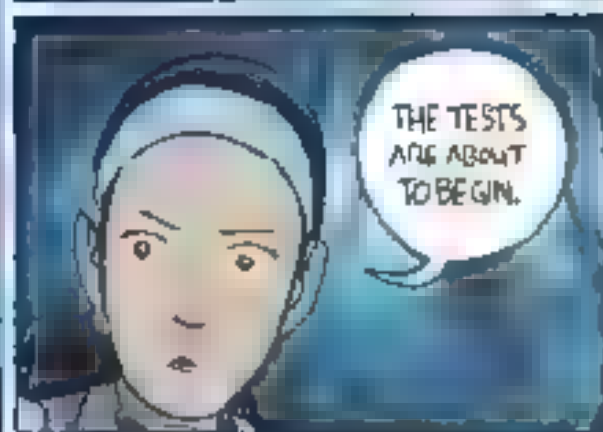
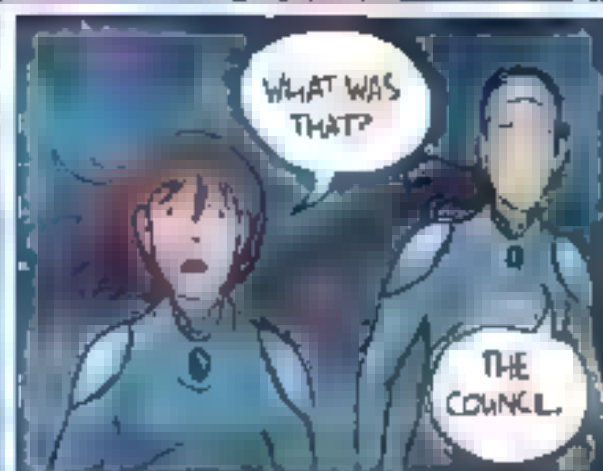
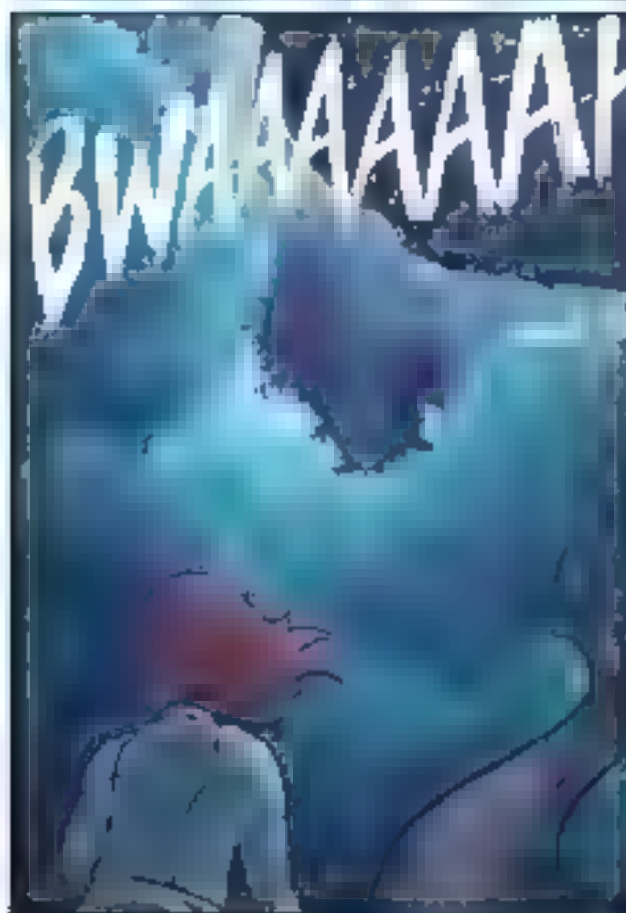
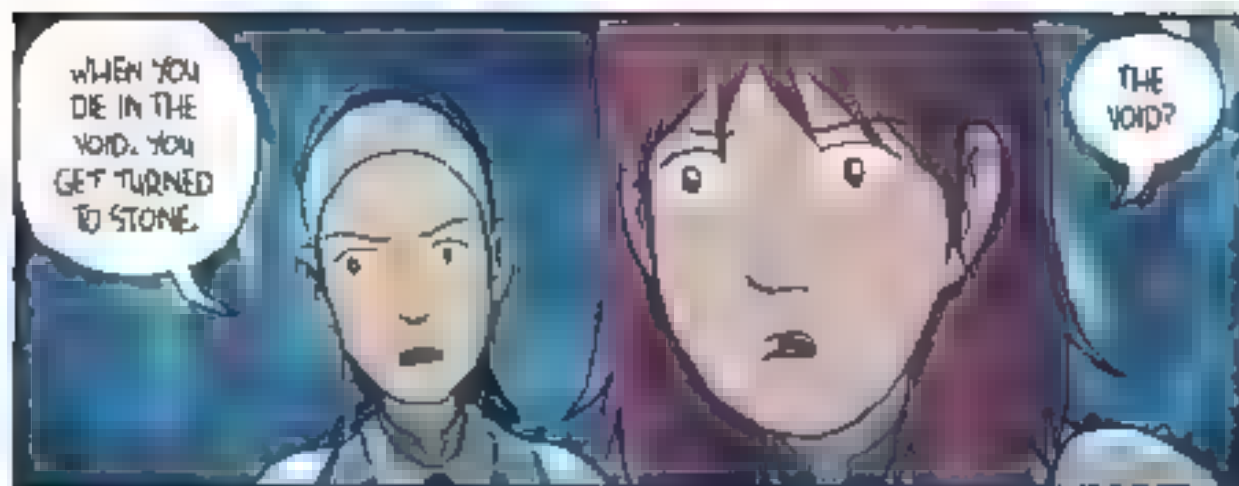


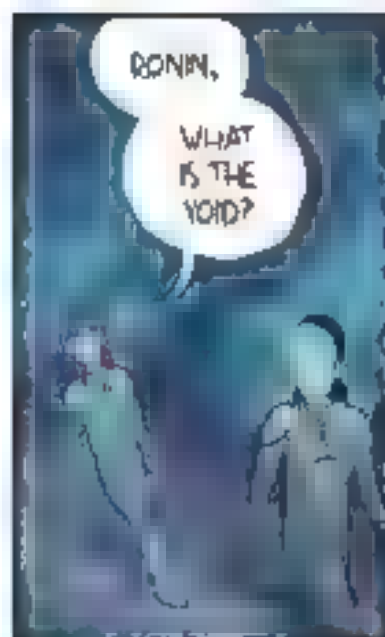












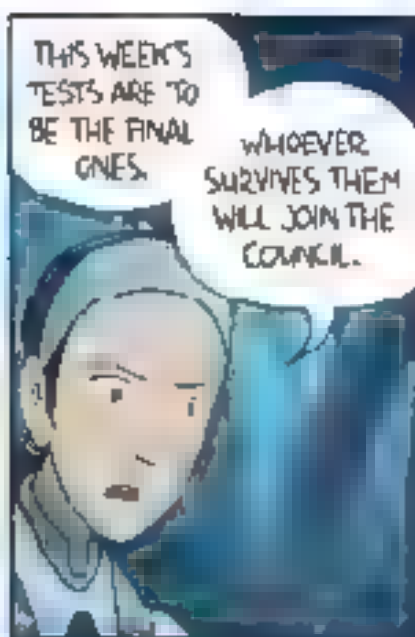
RONIN,

WHAT
IS THE
VOID?



THE VOID IS A
SIMULATION.

IT'S A VIRTUAL
SPACE WHERE THE
COUNCIL SENDS US
TO BE TESTED.



THIS WEEK'S
TESTS ARE TO
BE THE FINAL
ONES.

WHOEVER
SURVIVES THEM
WILL JOIN THE
COUNCIL.



AWWW,
NO.



LOOK WHO'S
STILL HERE.

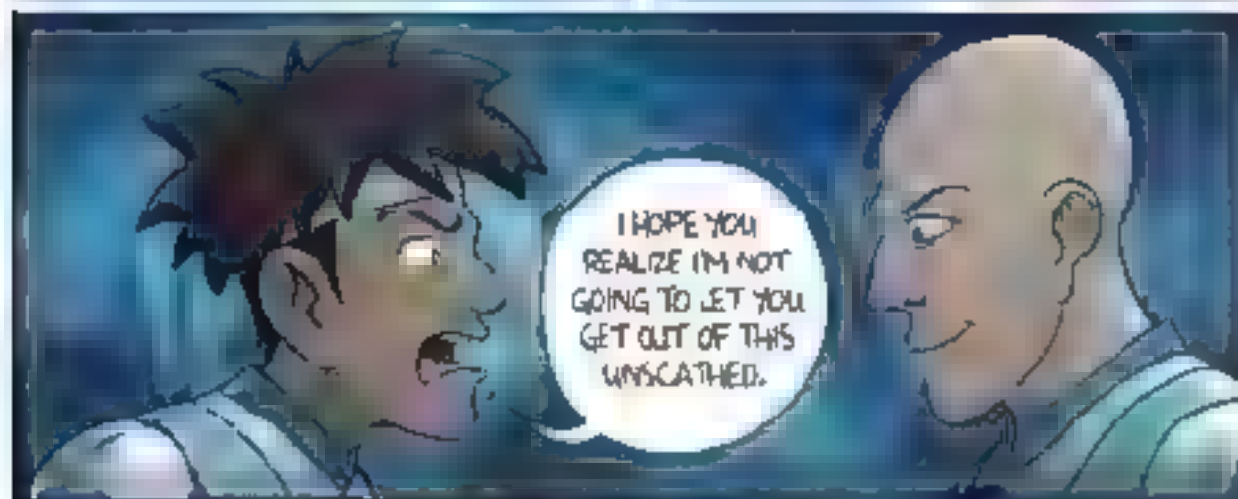
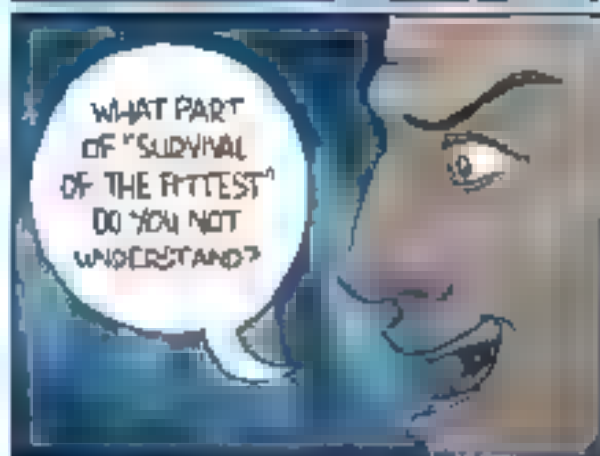
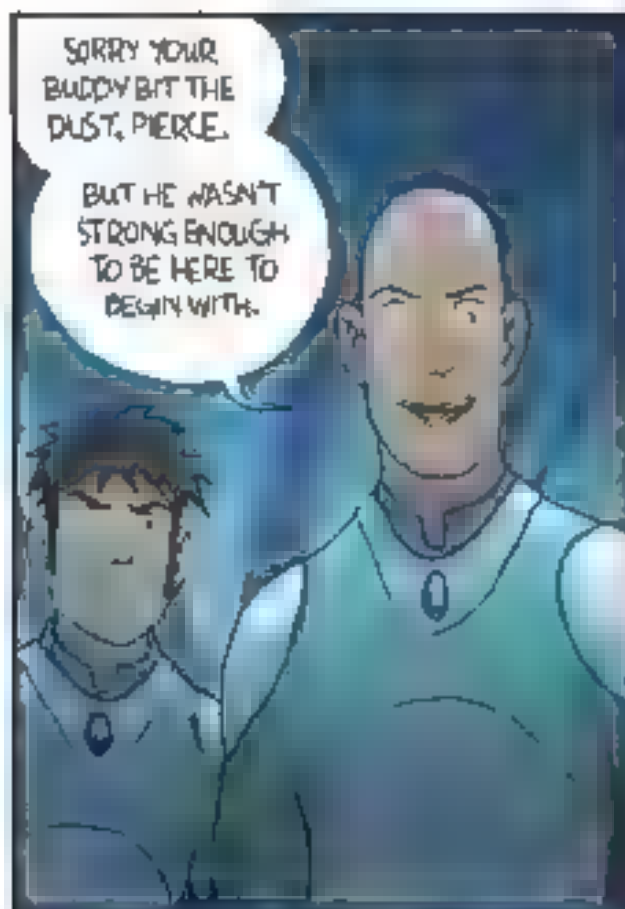


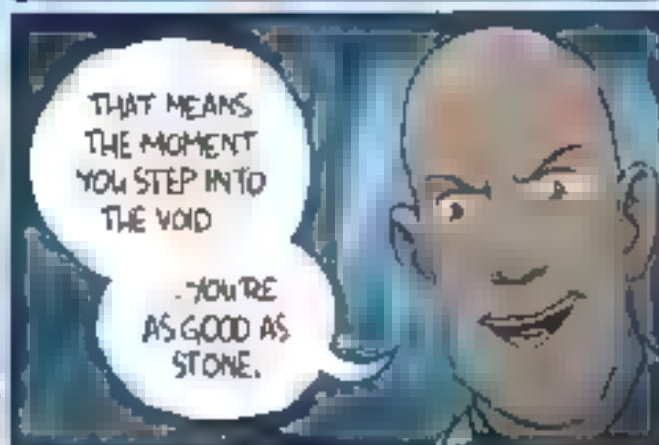
PERCE!

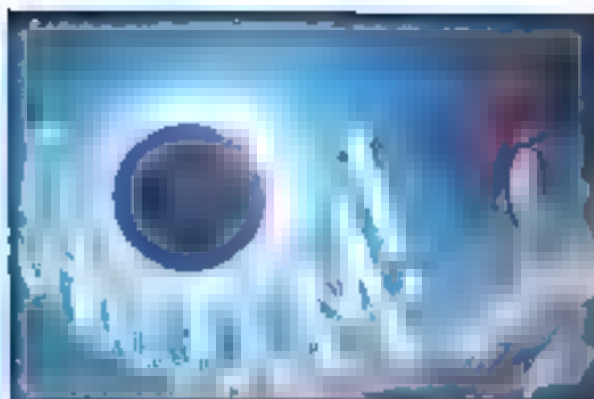
GLAD TO
SEE YOU'RE
STILL WITH
US!



I FIGURED
YOU GUYS WERE
TOAST!









YOUR
ABILITIES HAVE
BROUGHT YOU
THIS FAR.

BUT IT WILL
TAKE MORE THAN
TALENT TO SUCCEED
AT THE ACADEMY.

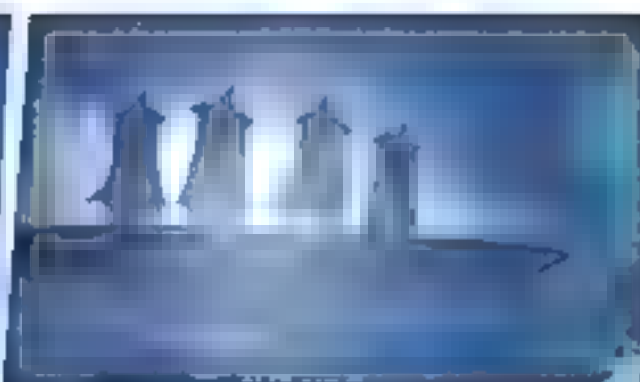


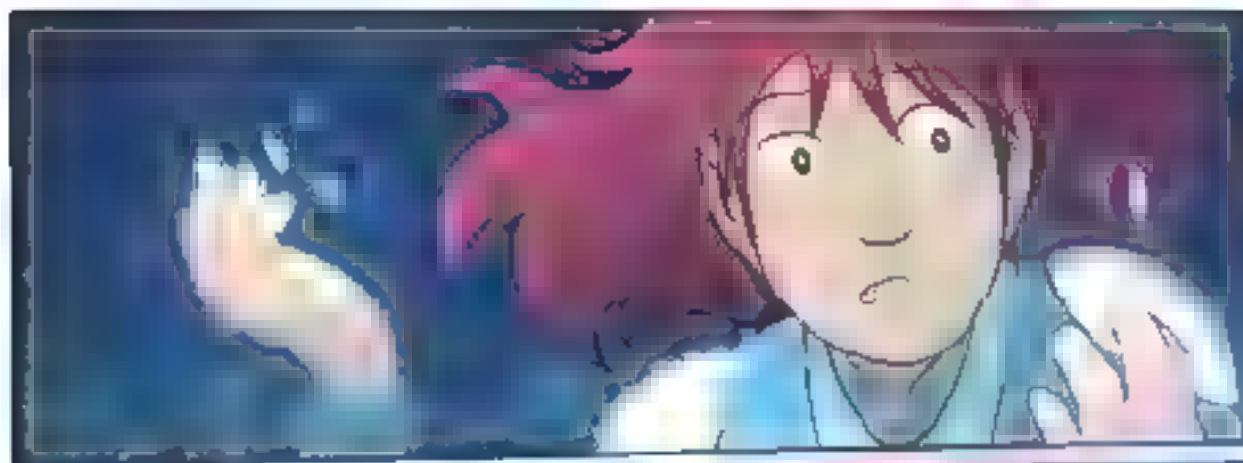
IT WILL ALSO
REQUIRE SACRIFICE AND
A DETERMINATION TO
SUCCEED AT ANY COST.

SHOW US WEAKNESS
OR MERCY, AND YOU
WILL FIND A PERMANENT
PLACE IN THE GARDEN OF
THE KEEPERS.

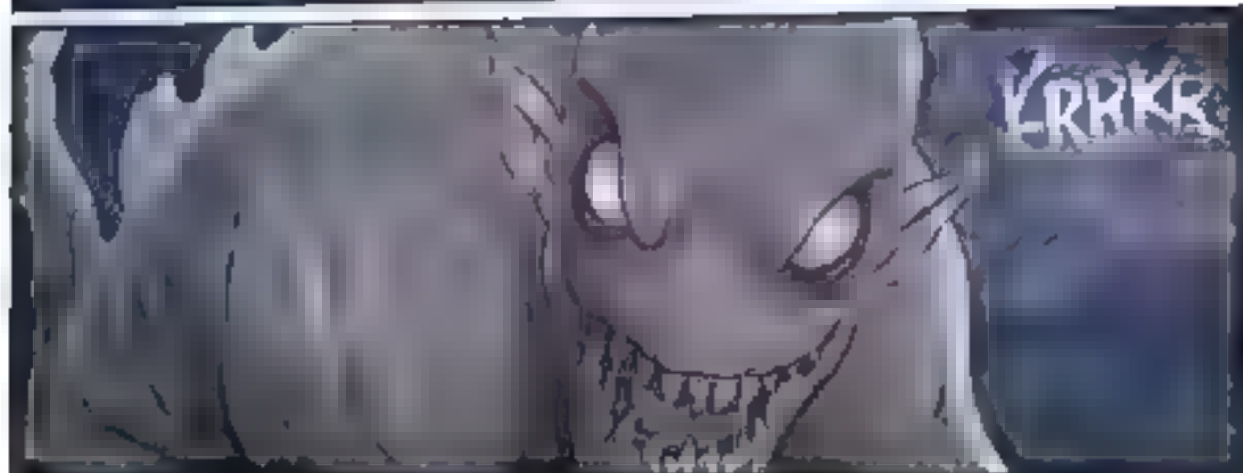
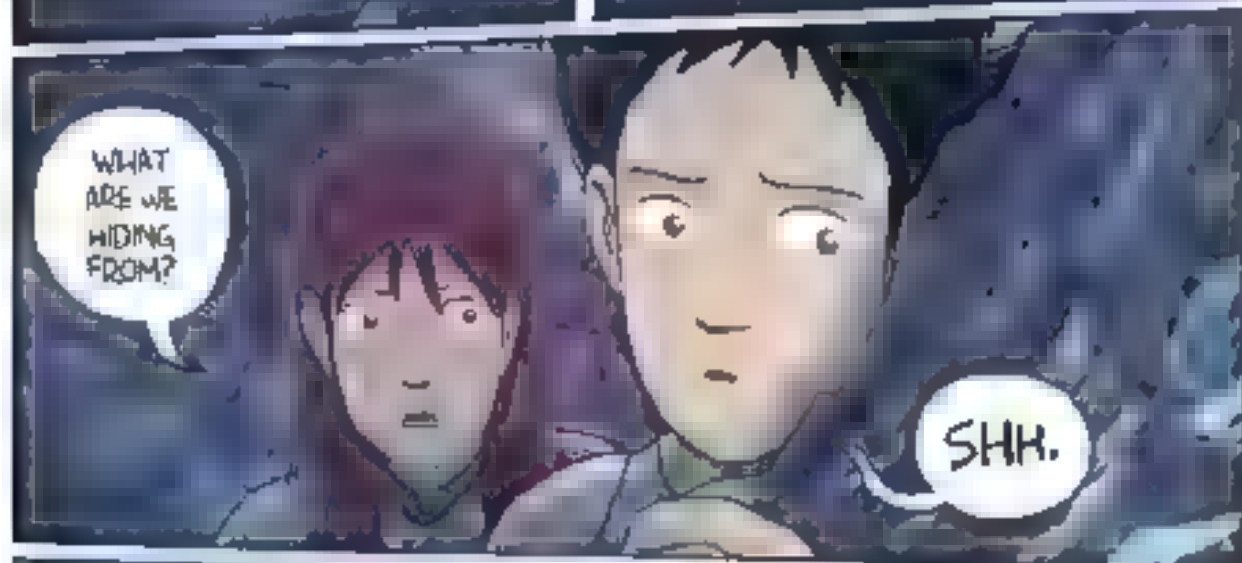


SHOW US YOUR
STRENGTH, AND WE
WILL MAKE YOU
A GOD.













COME ON,
WE BETTER
GO FIND THE
OTHERS.

I'D RATHER
NOT, IF YOU
KNOW WHAT I
MEAN.

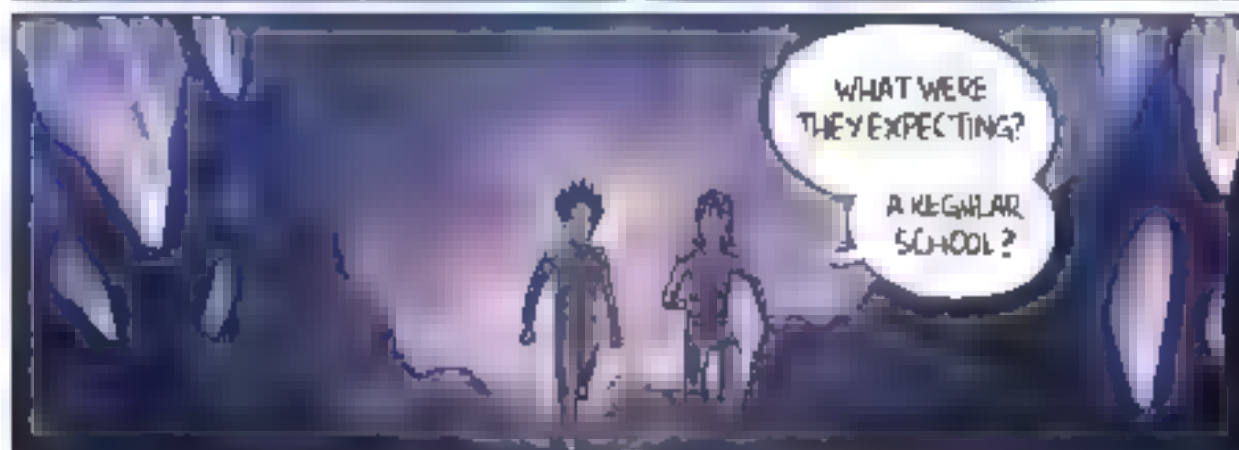


WHY DO
THEY HAVE
IT OUT FOR
YOU?



I GUESS I
DIDN'T TELL
THEM THE
WHOLE
TRUTH.

I DIDN'T
TELL THEM
WHAT IT
WOULD BE
LIKE HERE.



WHAT WERE
THEY EXPECTING?

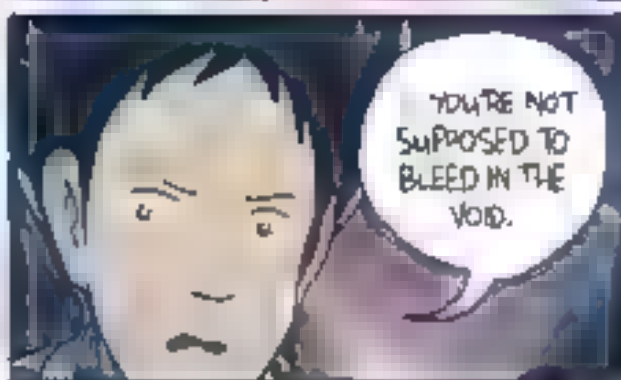
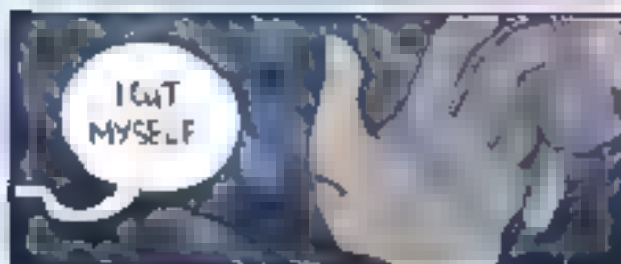
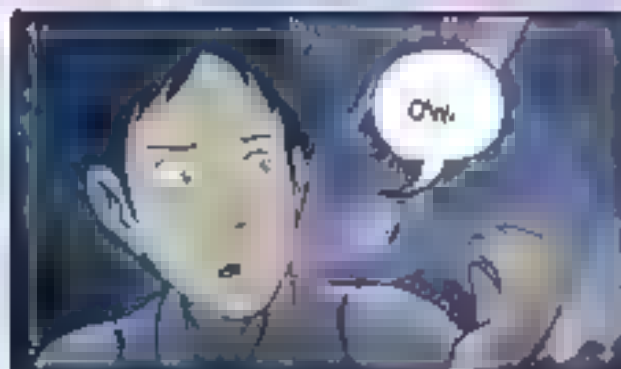
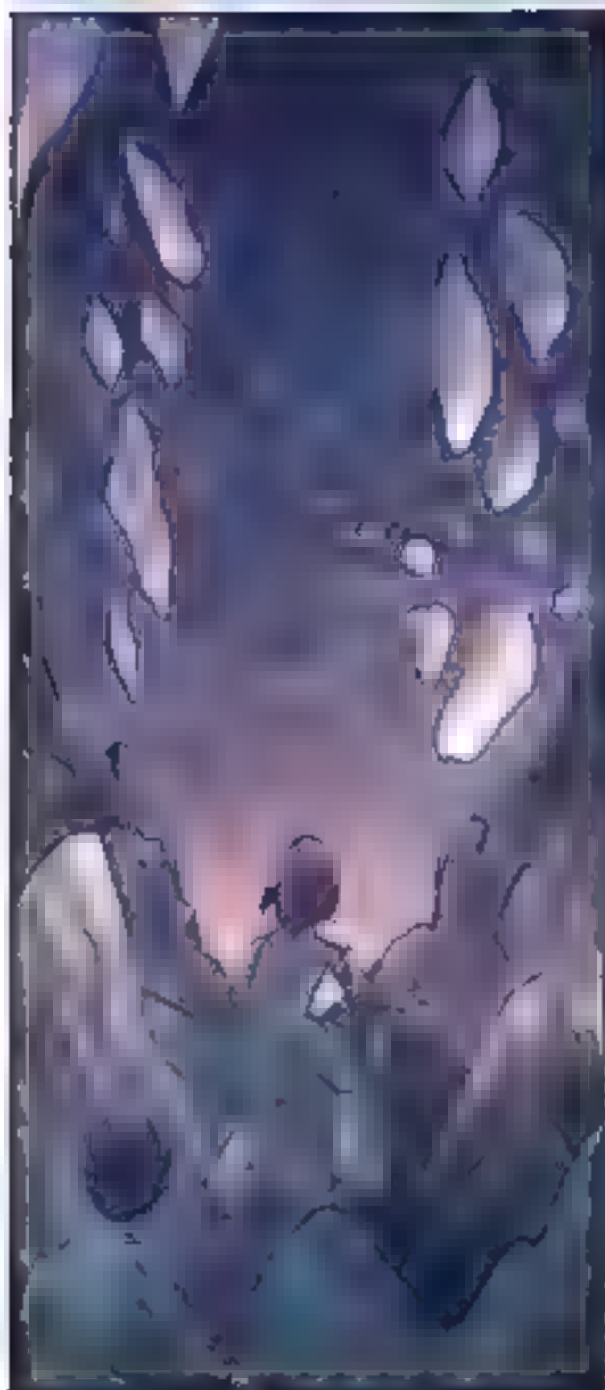
A REGULAR
SCHOOL?



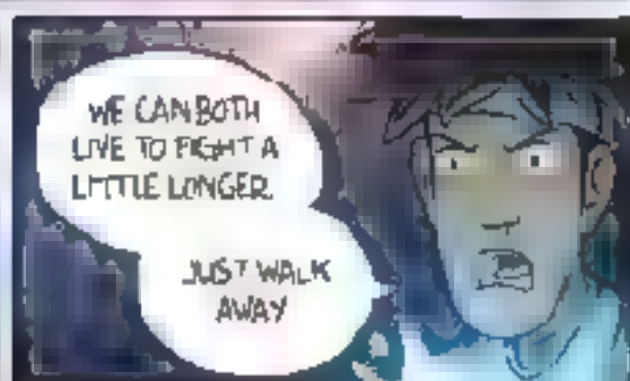
NOT EVERYONE
IS AS RESILIENT
AS ~~THE~~ ADE
EMILY.

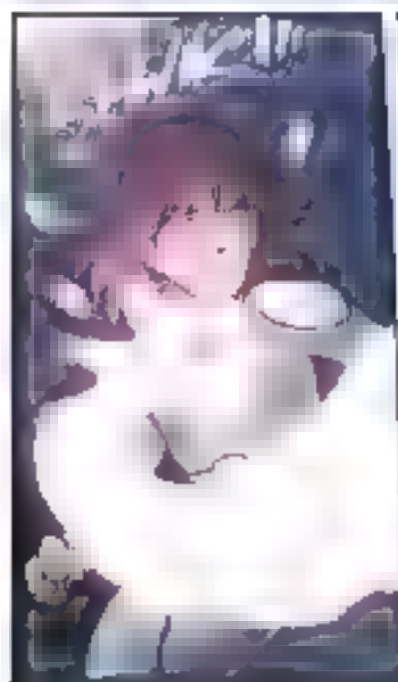
THEY AREN'T
AS WILLING TO
FACE DIFFICULT
CHALLENGES.

IT'S WHAT
MAKES YOU
SPECIAL.













NIKE GOING
HAYES!



NOW FOR
SOME UNFINISHED
BUSINESS.

PERCE,
WAIT!



I CAN HELP
YOU.

IT'S A LITTLE
LATE FOR THAT,
GRIFFIN.



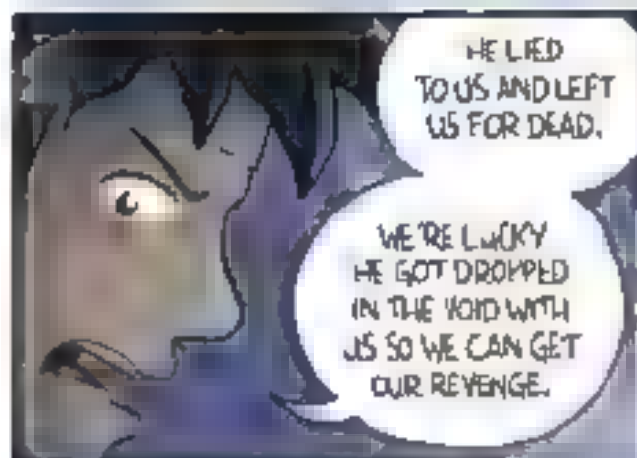
WAIT!
'YOU HAVE
TO LISTEN
TO ME'

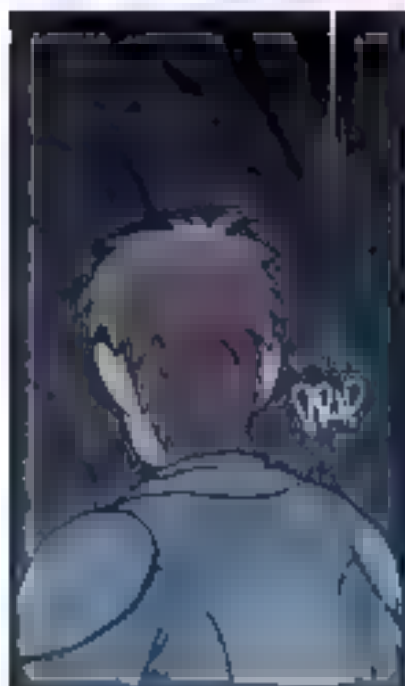


LISTENING TO
YOU IS WHAT
GOT US HERE
IN THE FIRST
PLACE!



BUT I'M ON
YOUR SIDE!

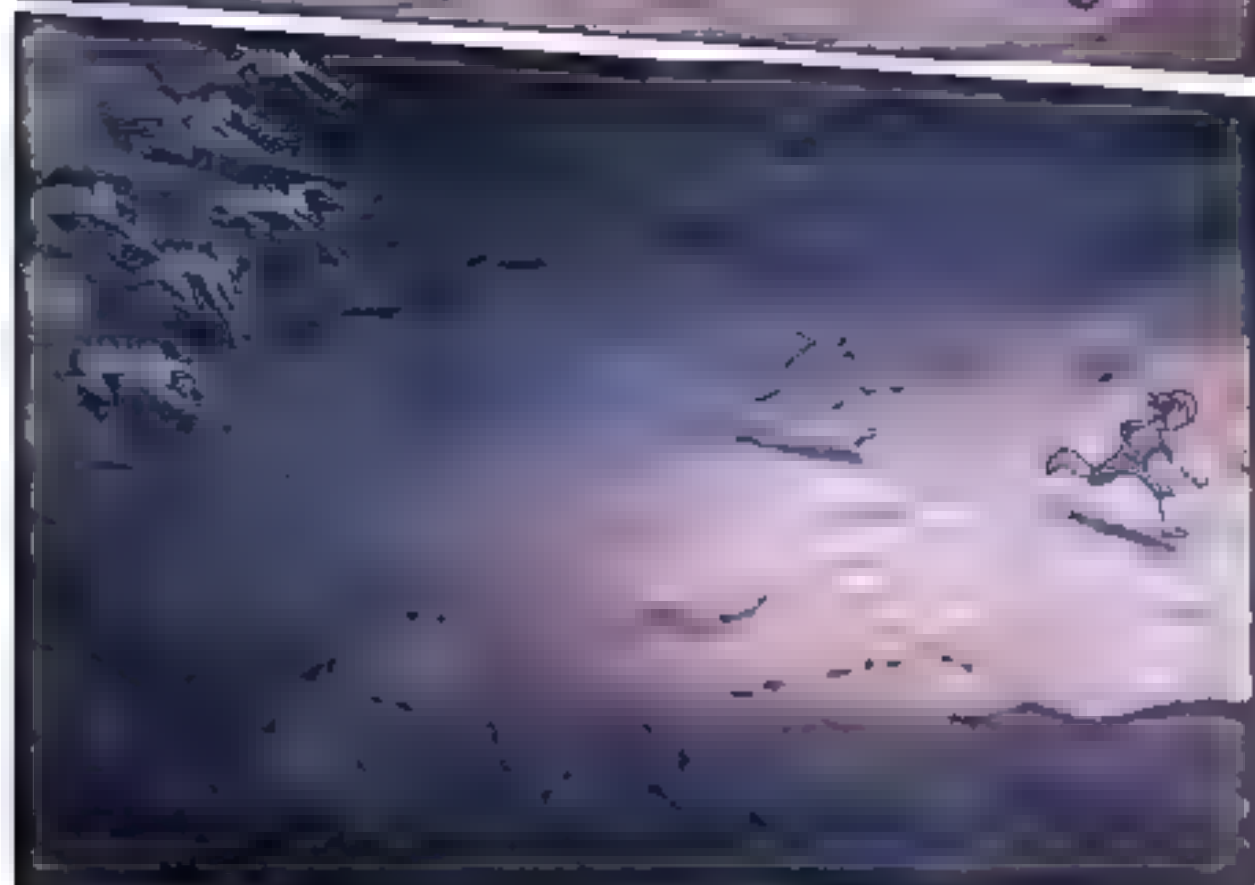






UH,
GUYS...

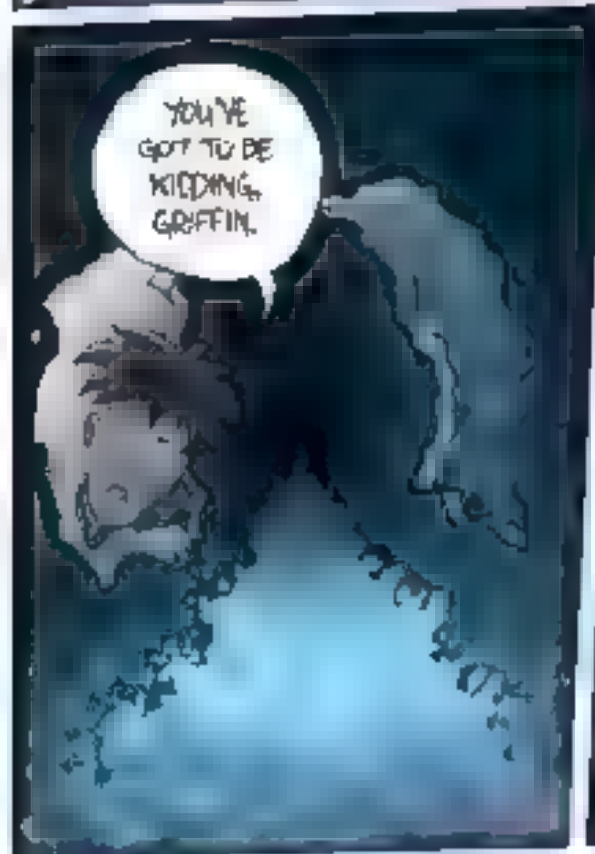


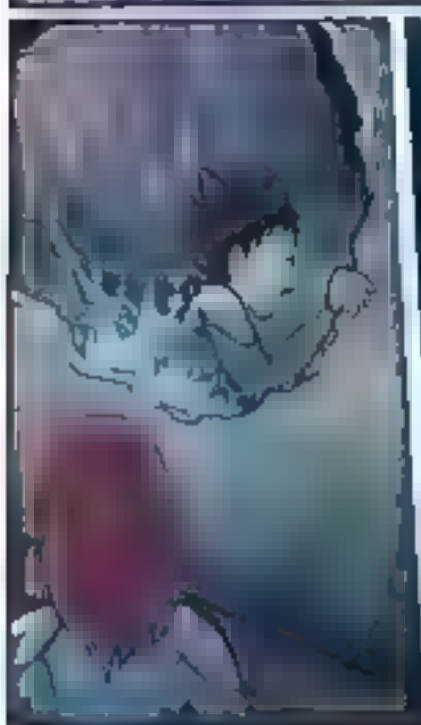


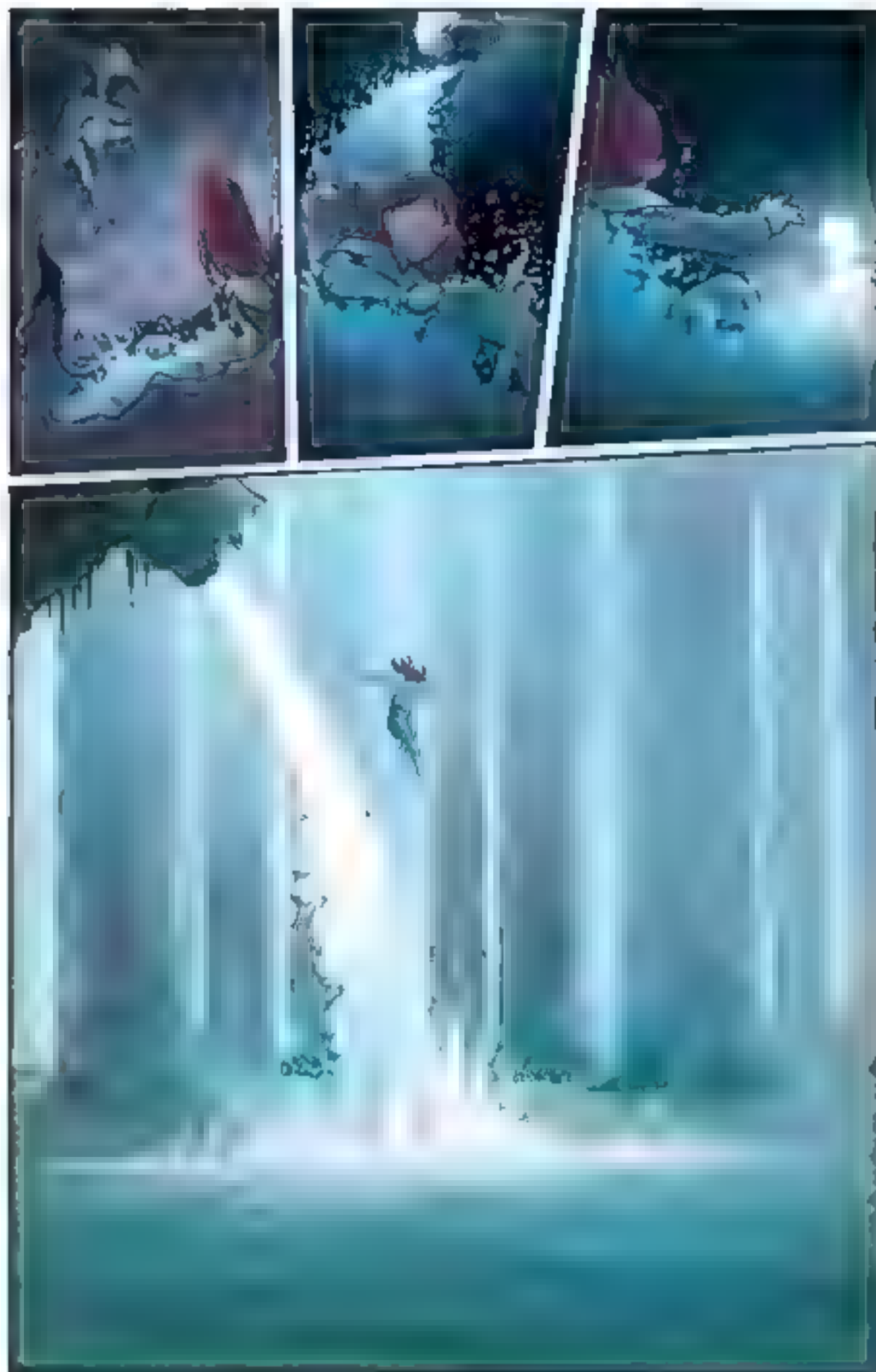


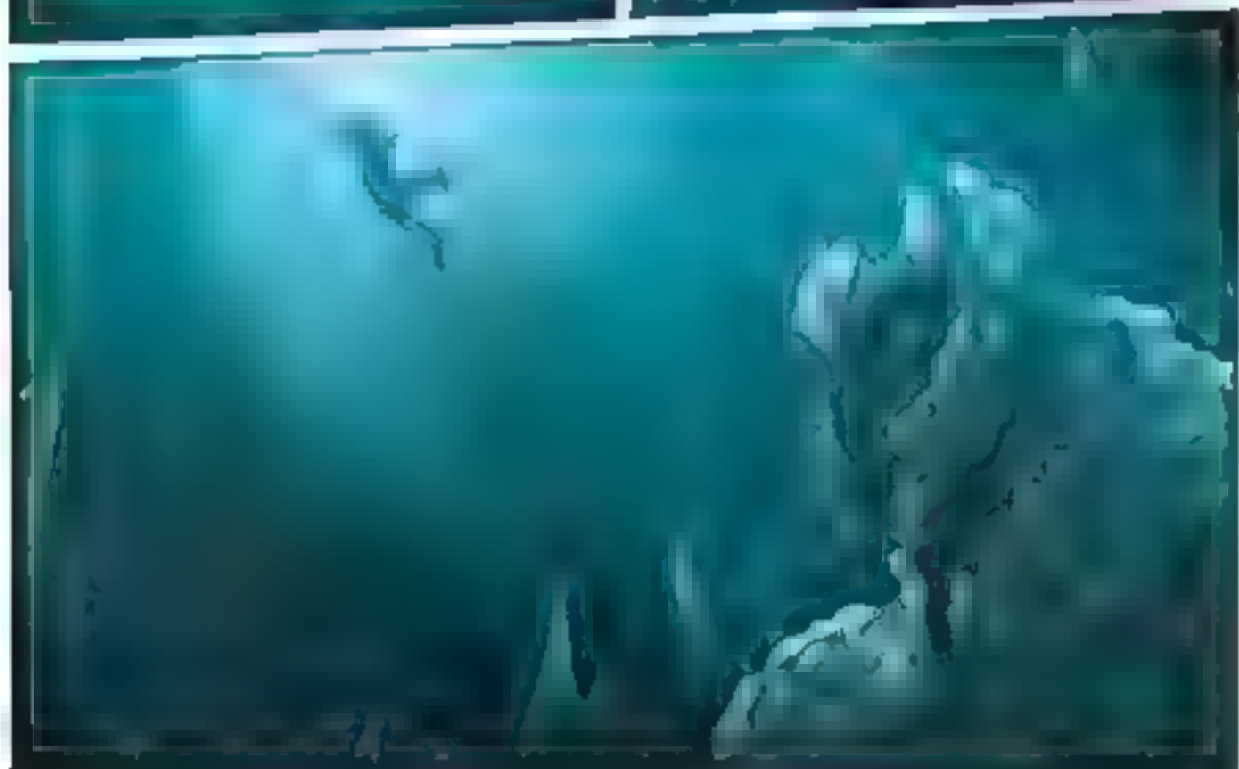




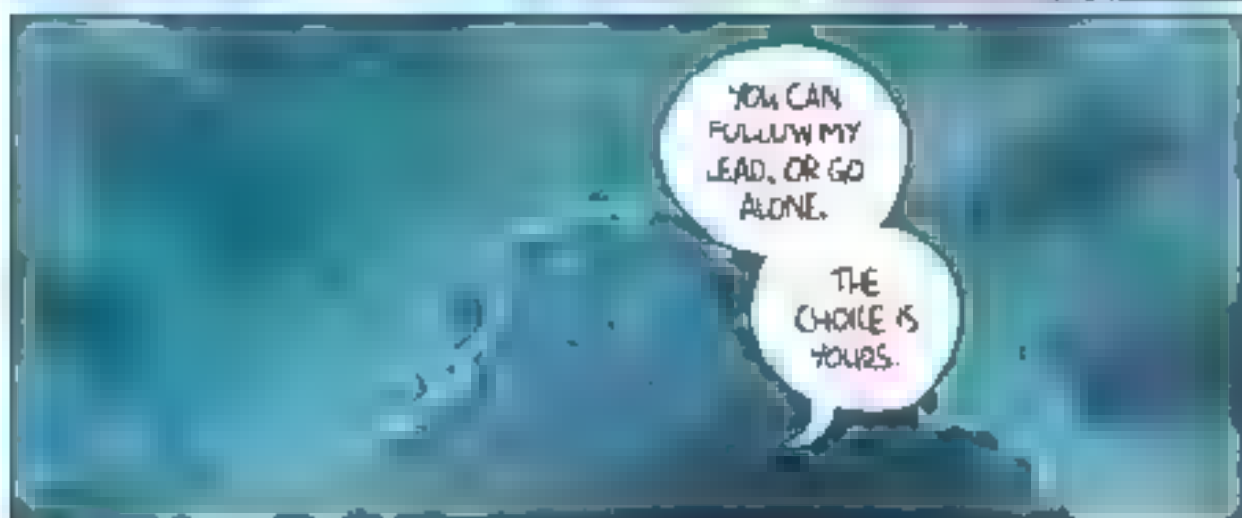


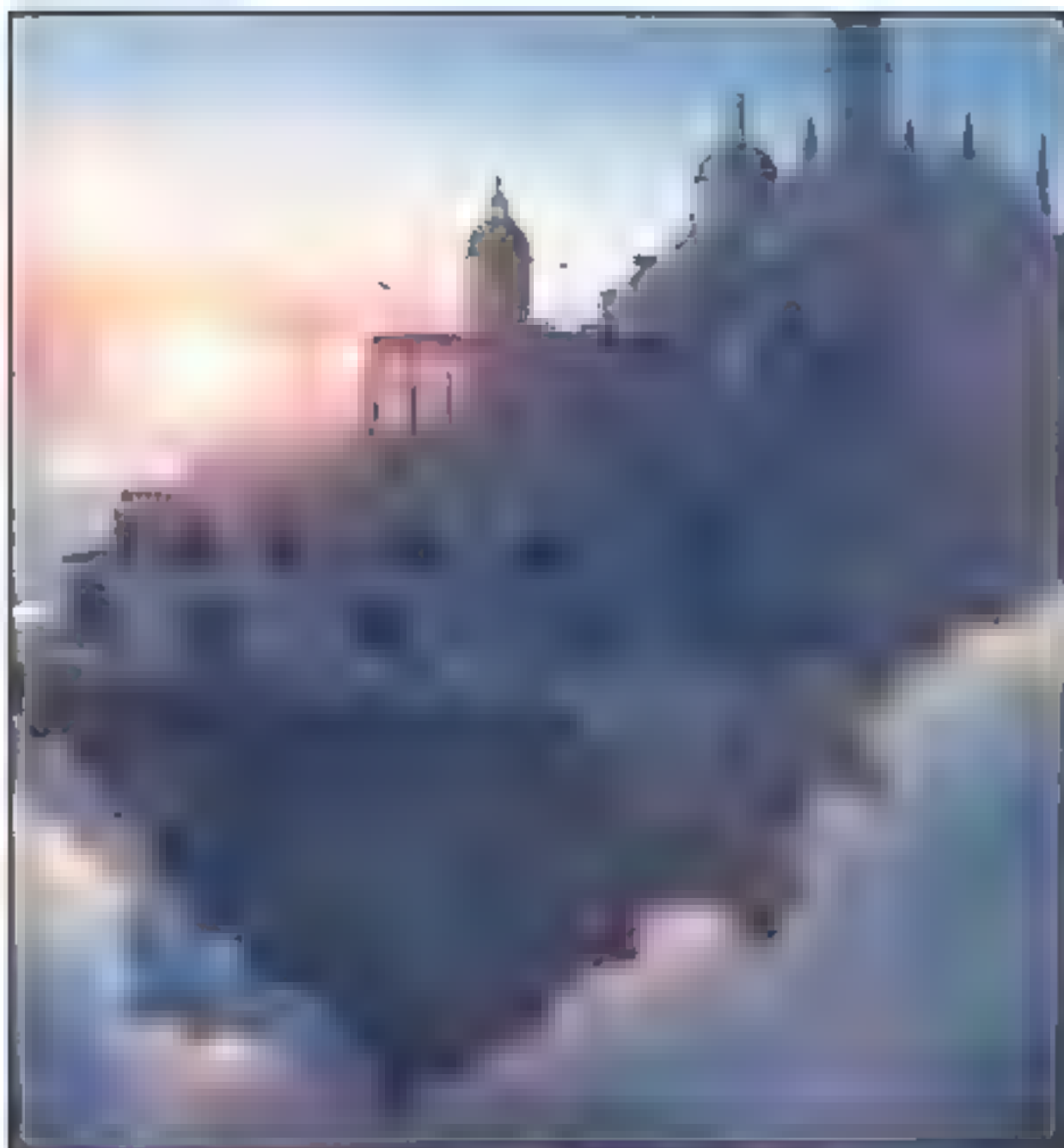




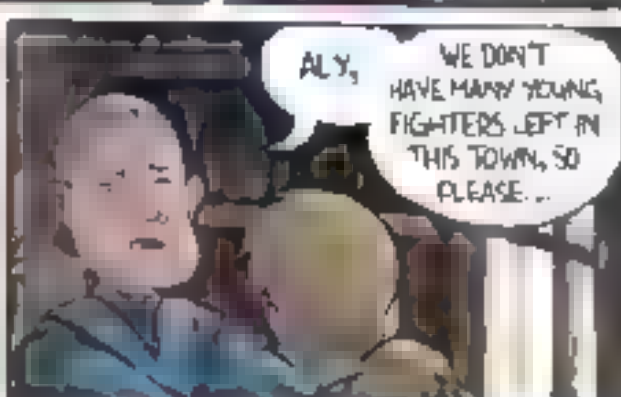




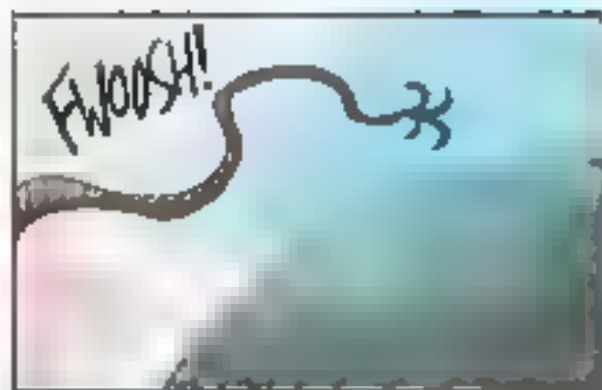


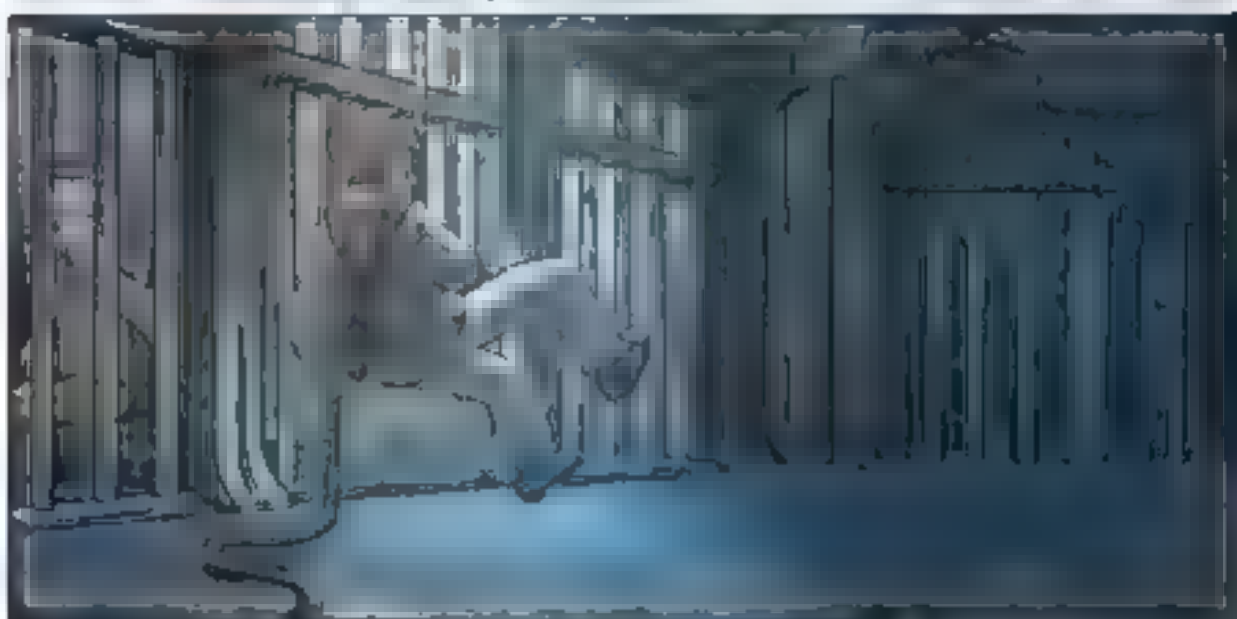
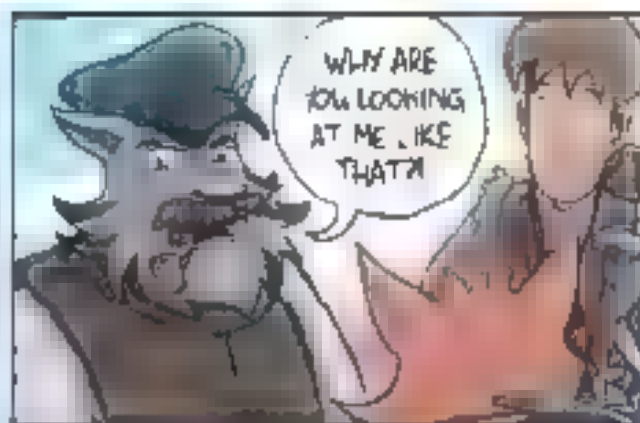


YEARS AGO I
DESIGNED FARBURG
PENITENTIARY BUT
IT WAS ONLY AFTER
THE BUILDING WAS
COMPLETE THAT
I REALIZED I HAD
MADE A MISTAKE.









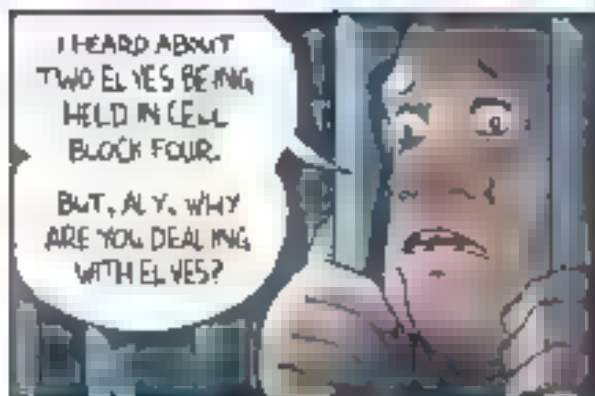


ALY, IT IS YOU!



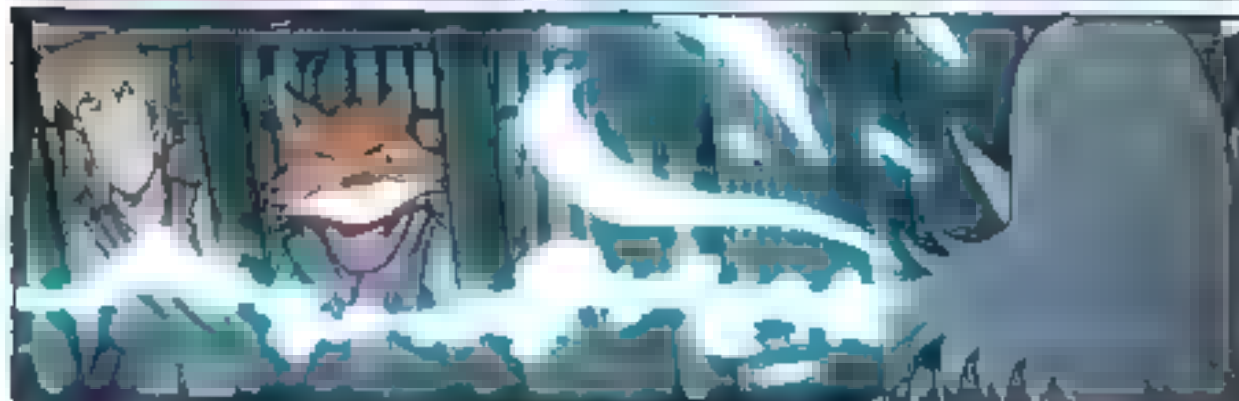
DON'T WORRY

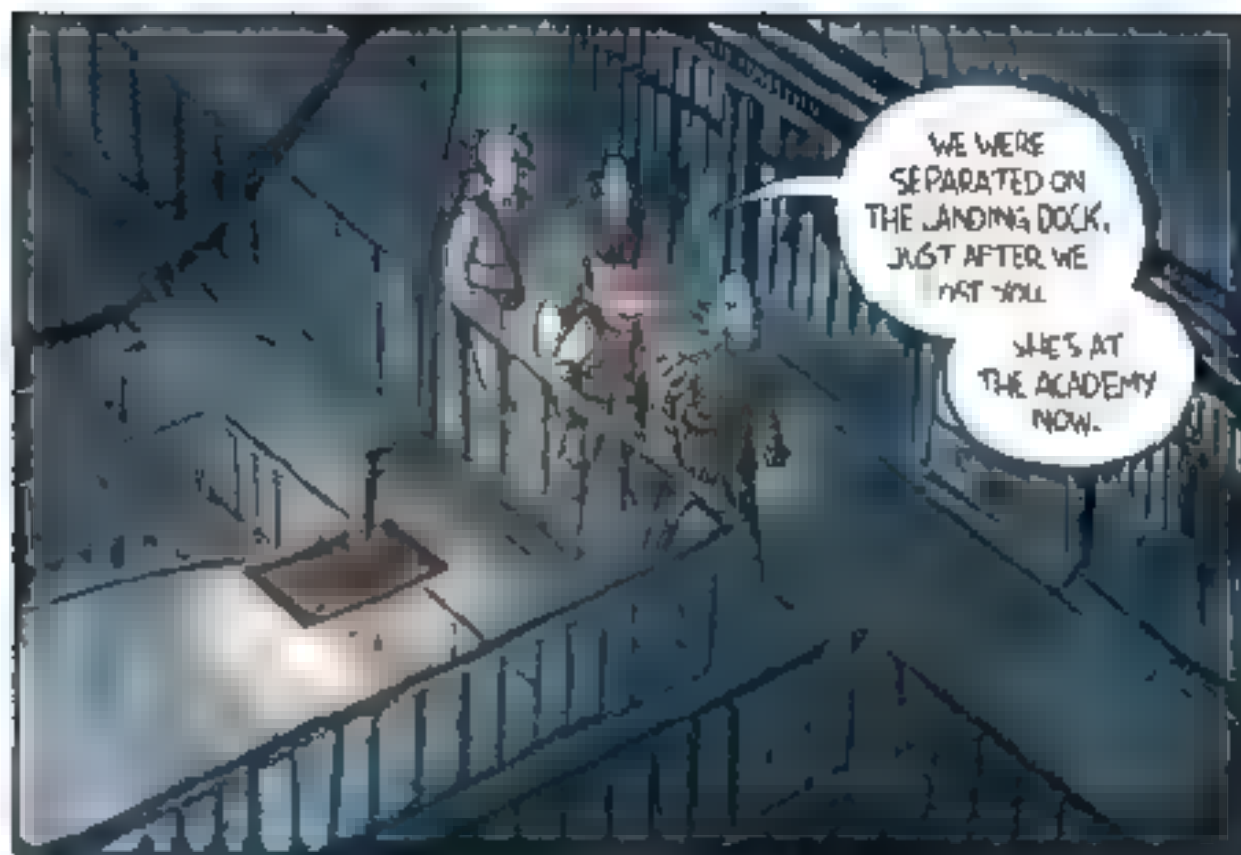
WE'LL GET YOU OUT





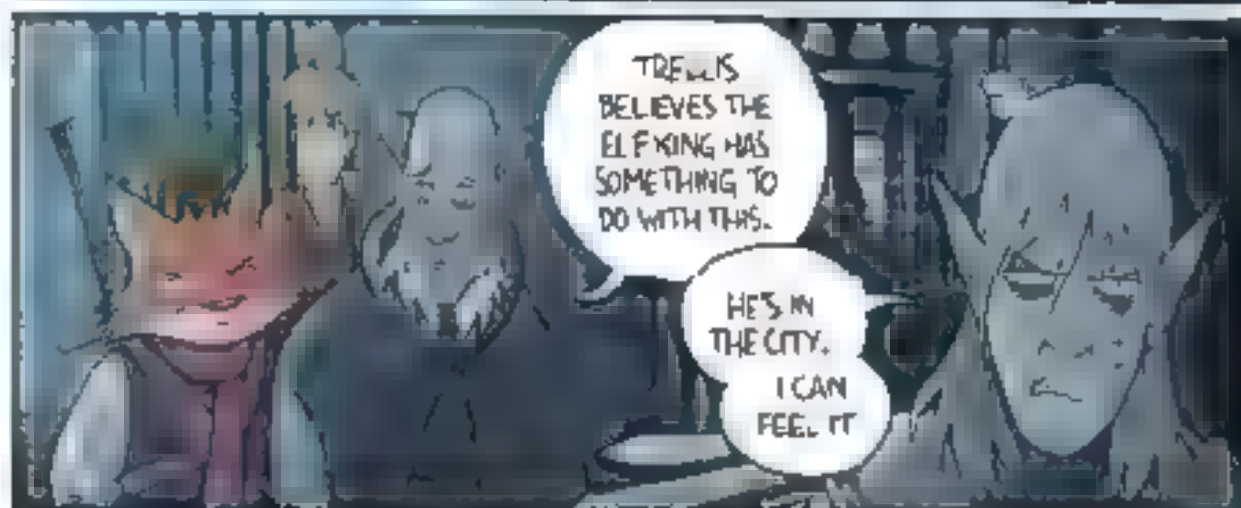






WE WERE
SEPARATED ON
THE LANDING DOCK,
JUST AFTER WE
WENT AWAY

SHE'S AT
THE ACADEMY
NOW.



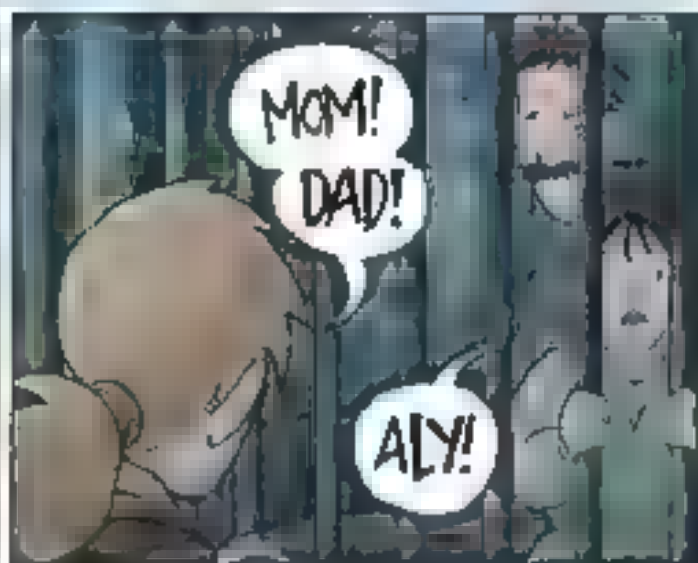
TRELLIS
BELIEVES THE
ELF KING HAS
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THIS.

HE'S IN
THE CITY.

I CAN
FEEL IT



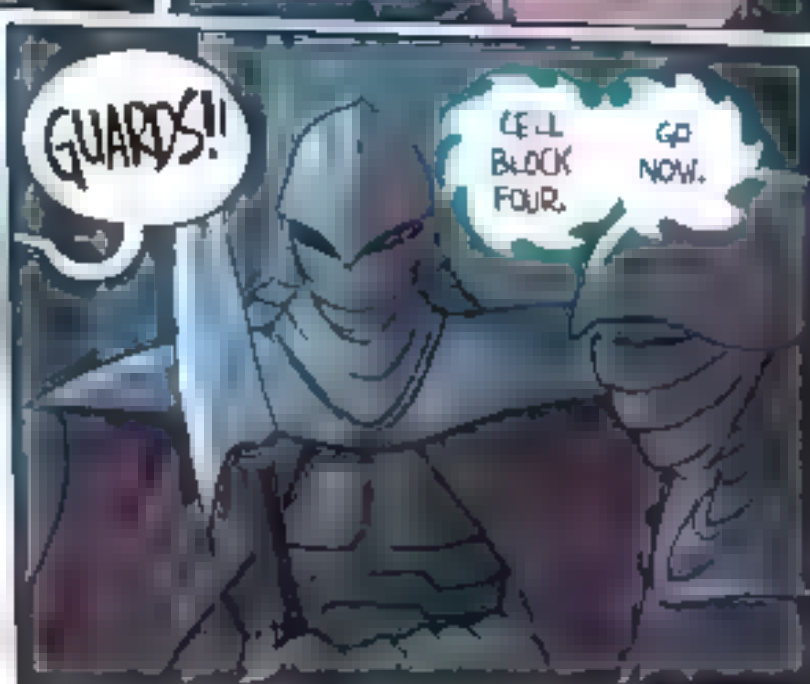
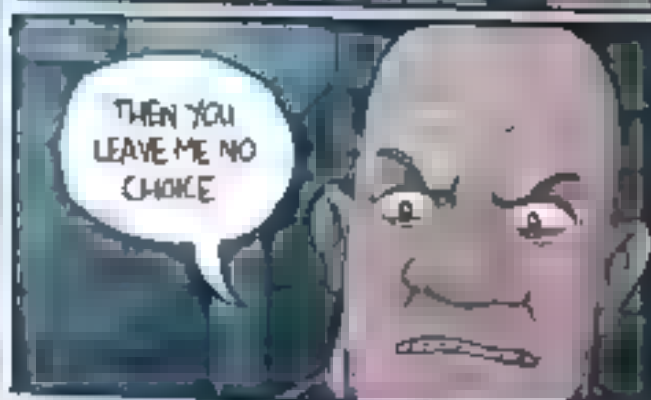
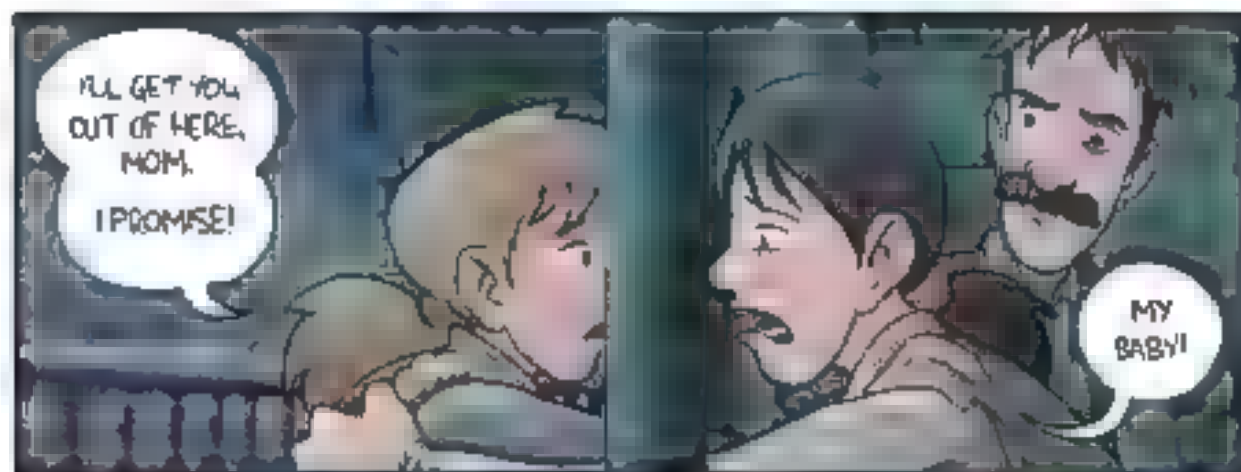
ALY!



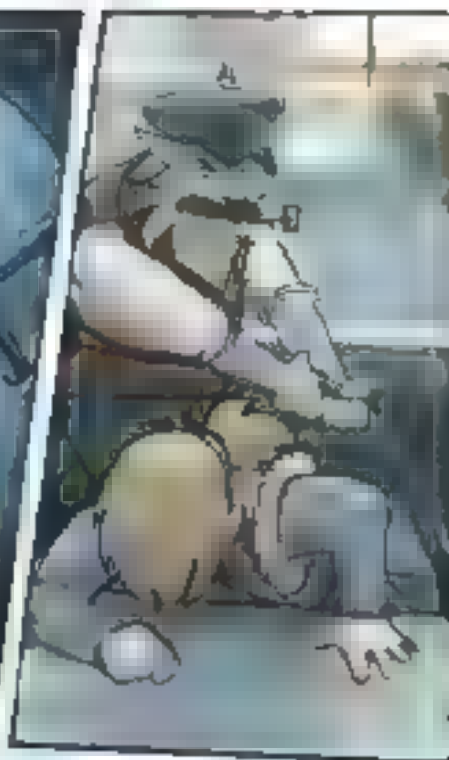
MOM!

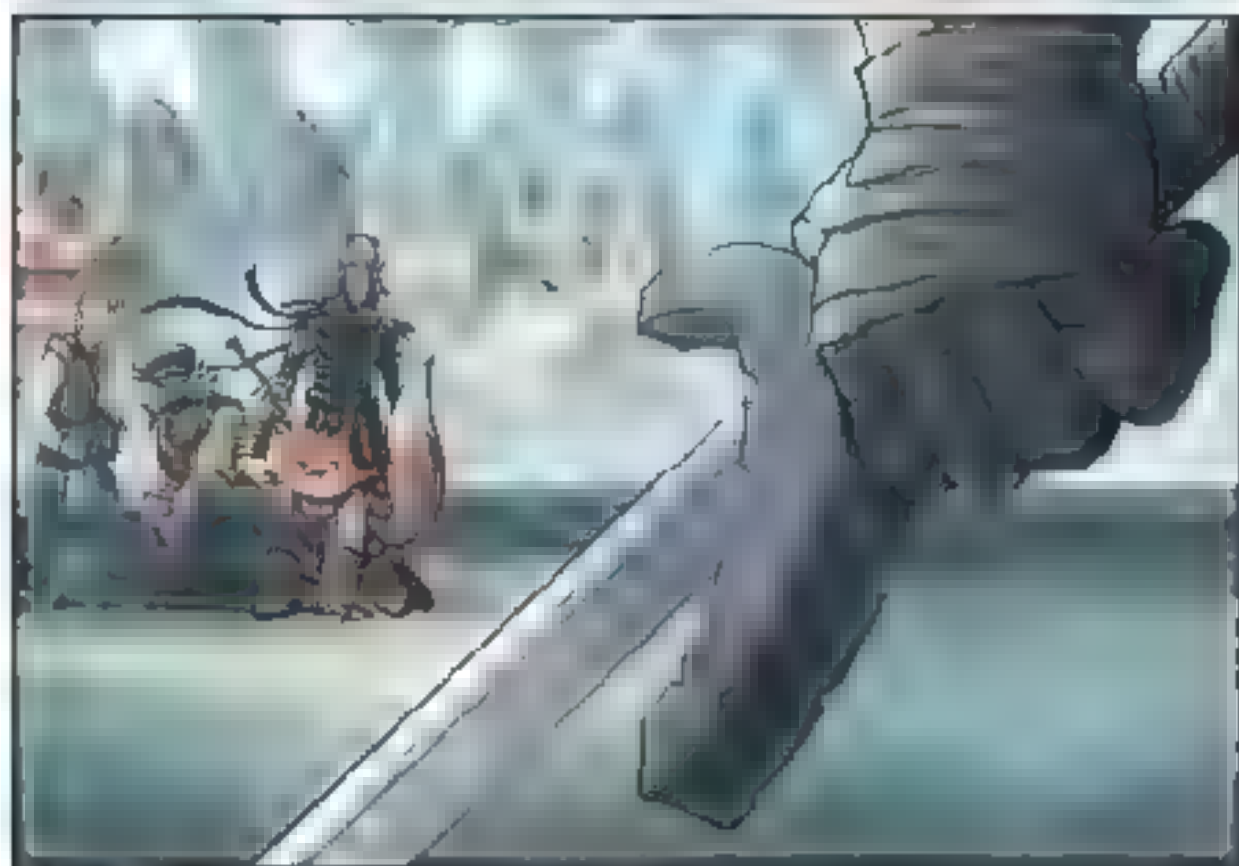
DAD!

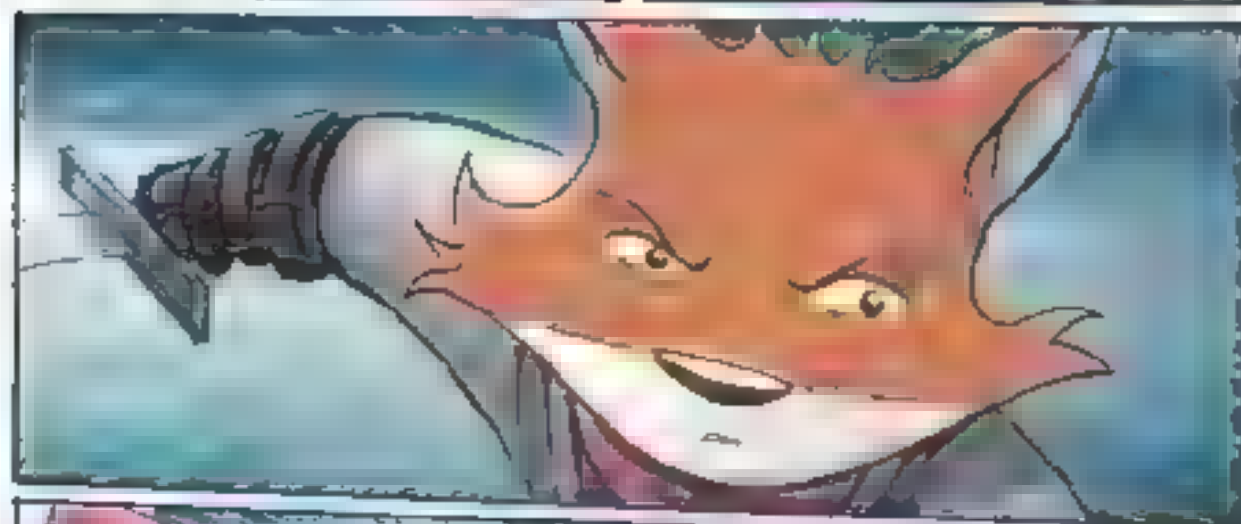
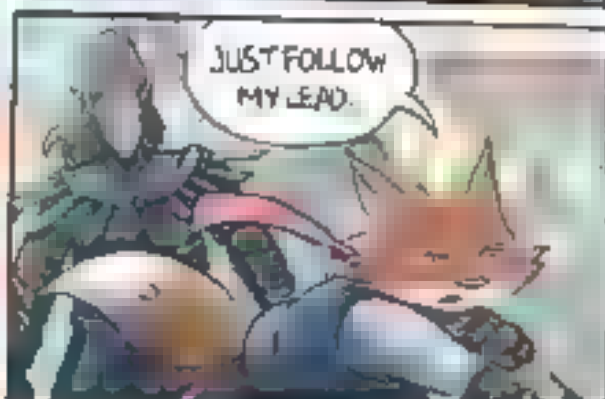
ALY!

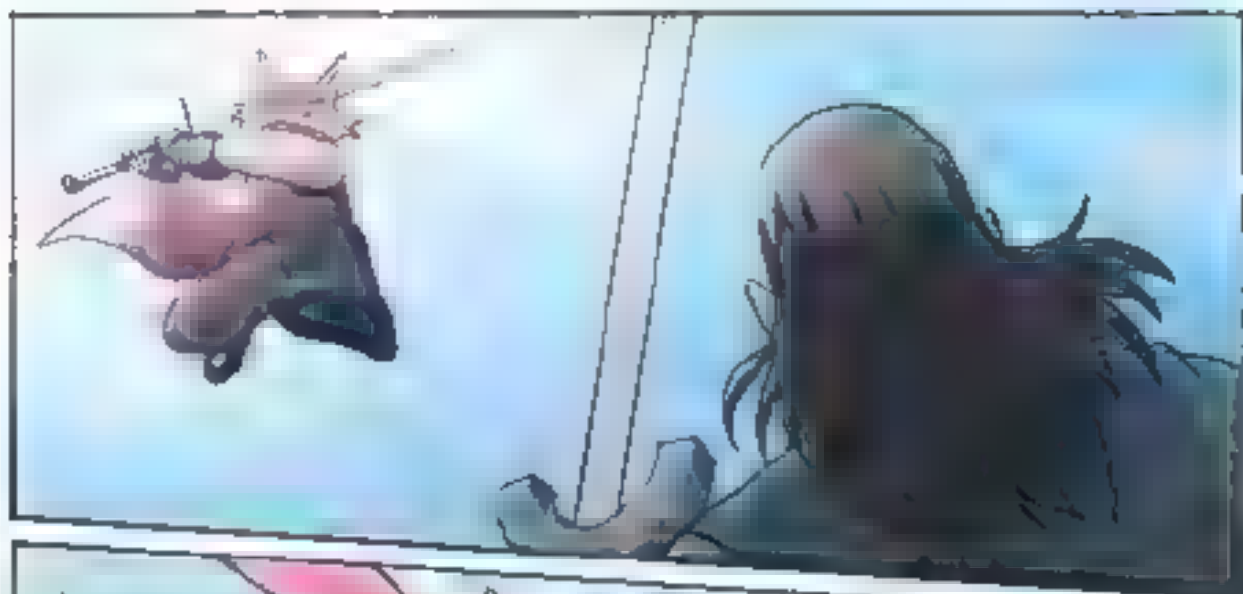














HOW ABOUT
THIS TIME YOU
FOLLOW MY
LEAD?

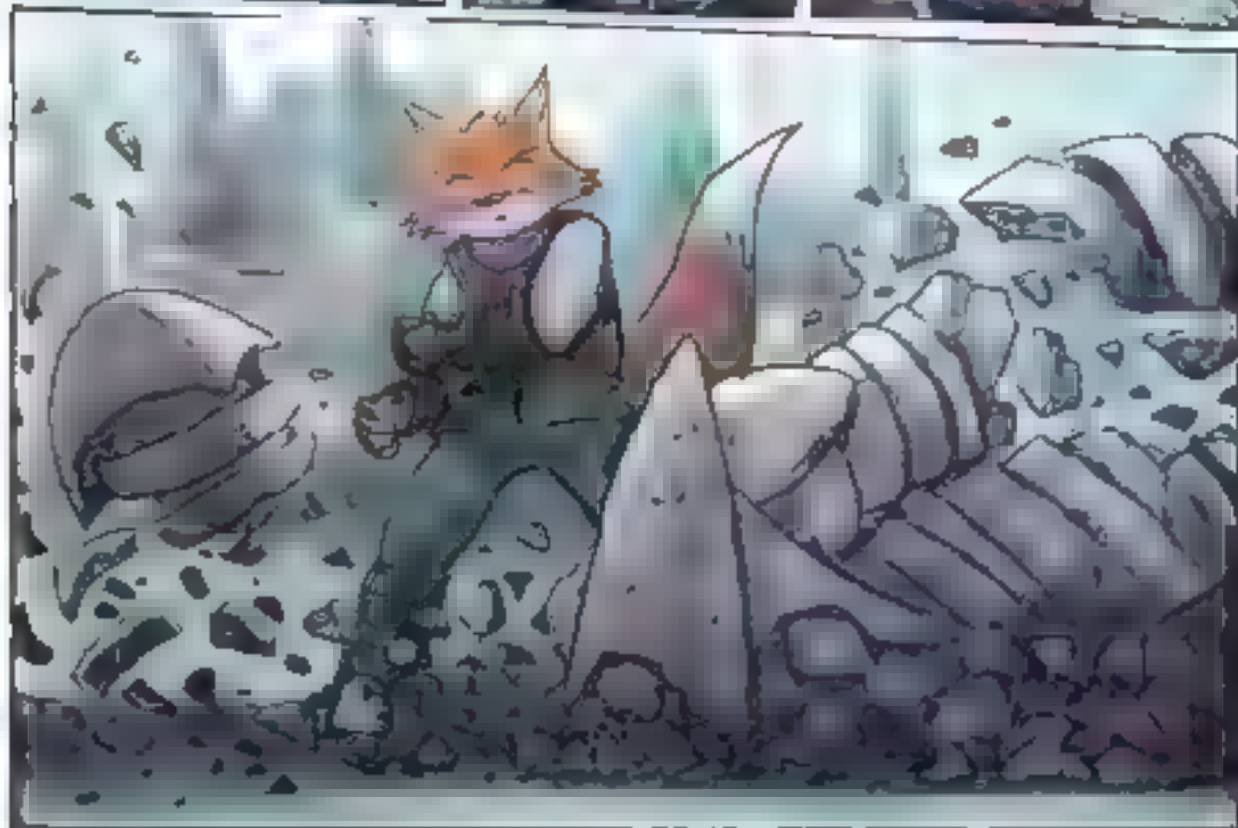
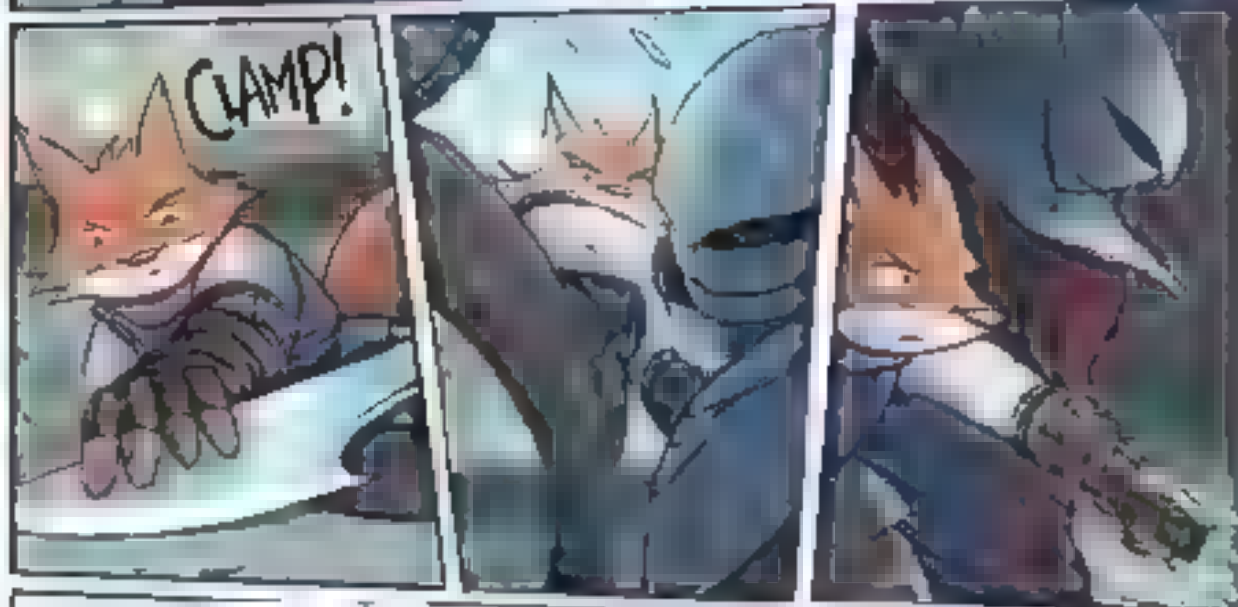
BE MY
GUEST



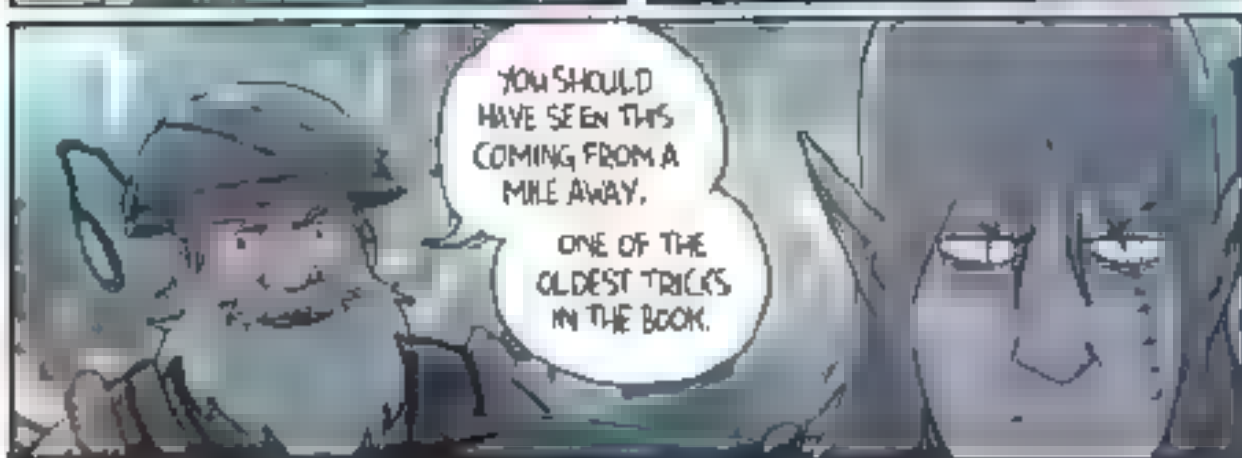


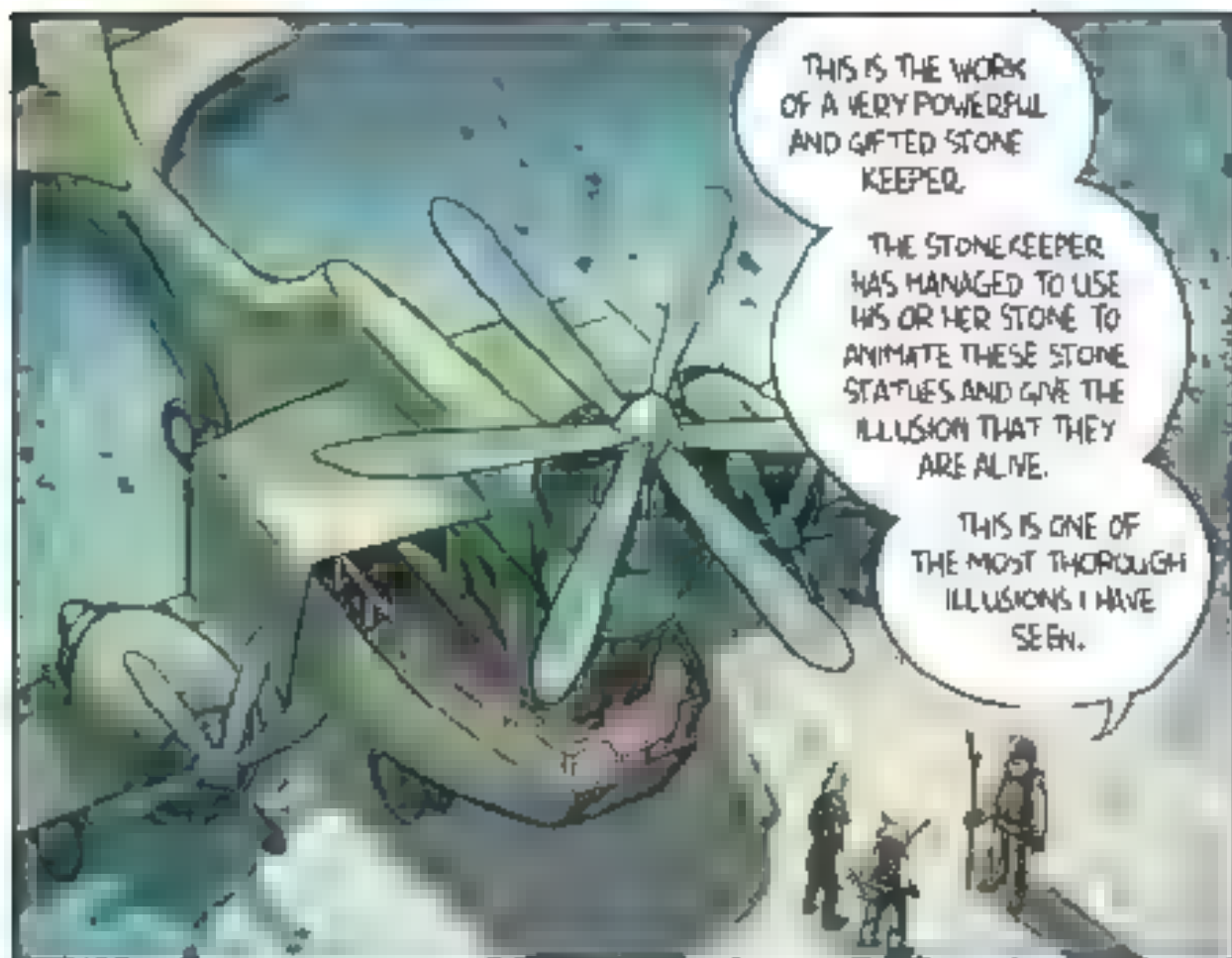












THIS IS THE WORK
OF A VERY POWERFUL
AND GIFTED STONE
KEEPER.

THE STONEKEEPER
HAS MANAGED TO USE
HIS OR HER STONE TO
ANIMATE THESE STONE
STATUES AND GIVE THE
ILLUSION THAT THEY
ARE ALIVE.

THIS IS ONE OF
THE MOST THOROUGH
ILLUSIONS I HAVE
SEEN.



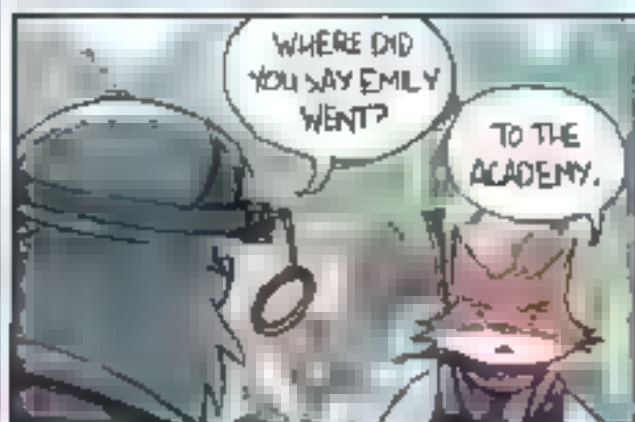
IF IT WAS SO
THOROUGH, THEN
WHY DID THE STATUES
BREAK APART SO
EASILY?

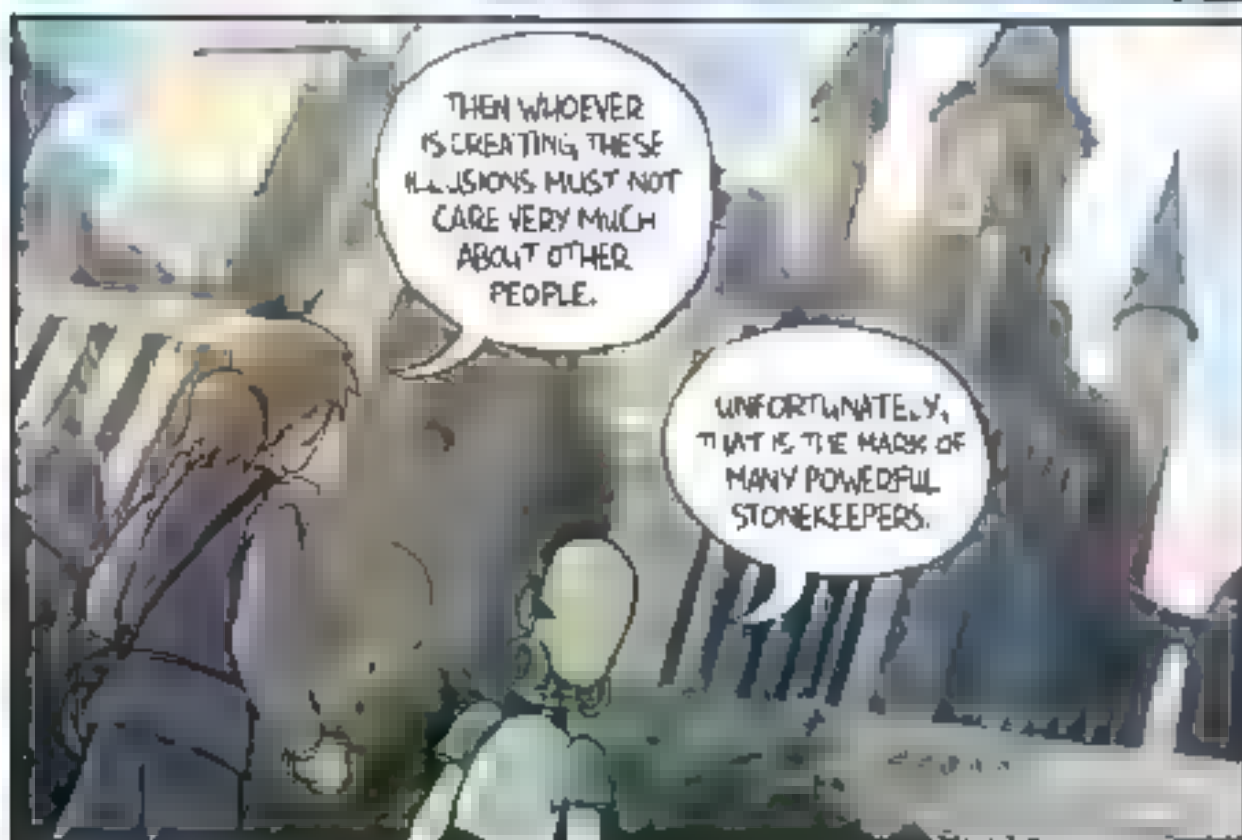
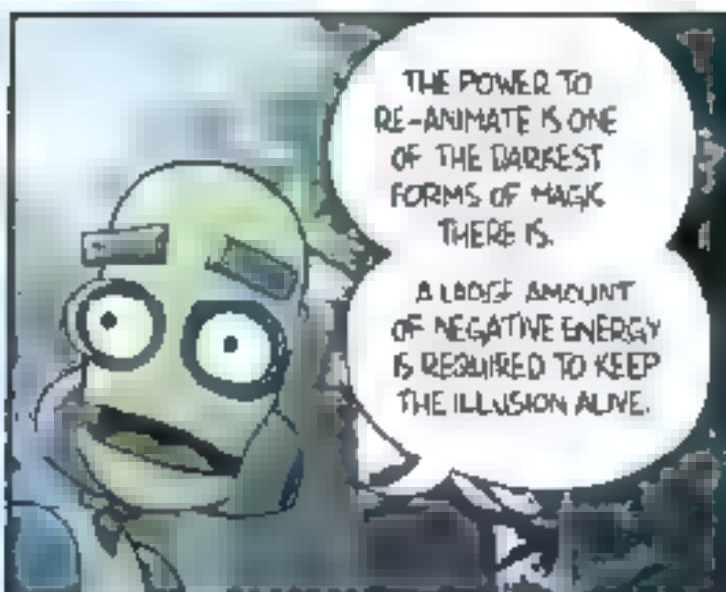


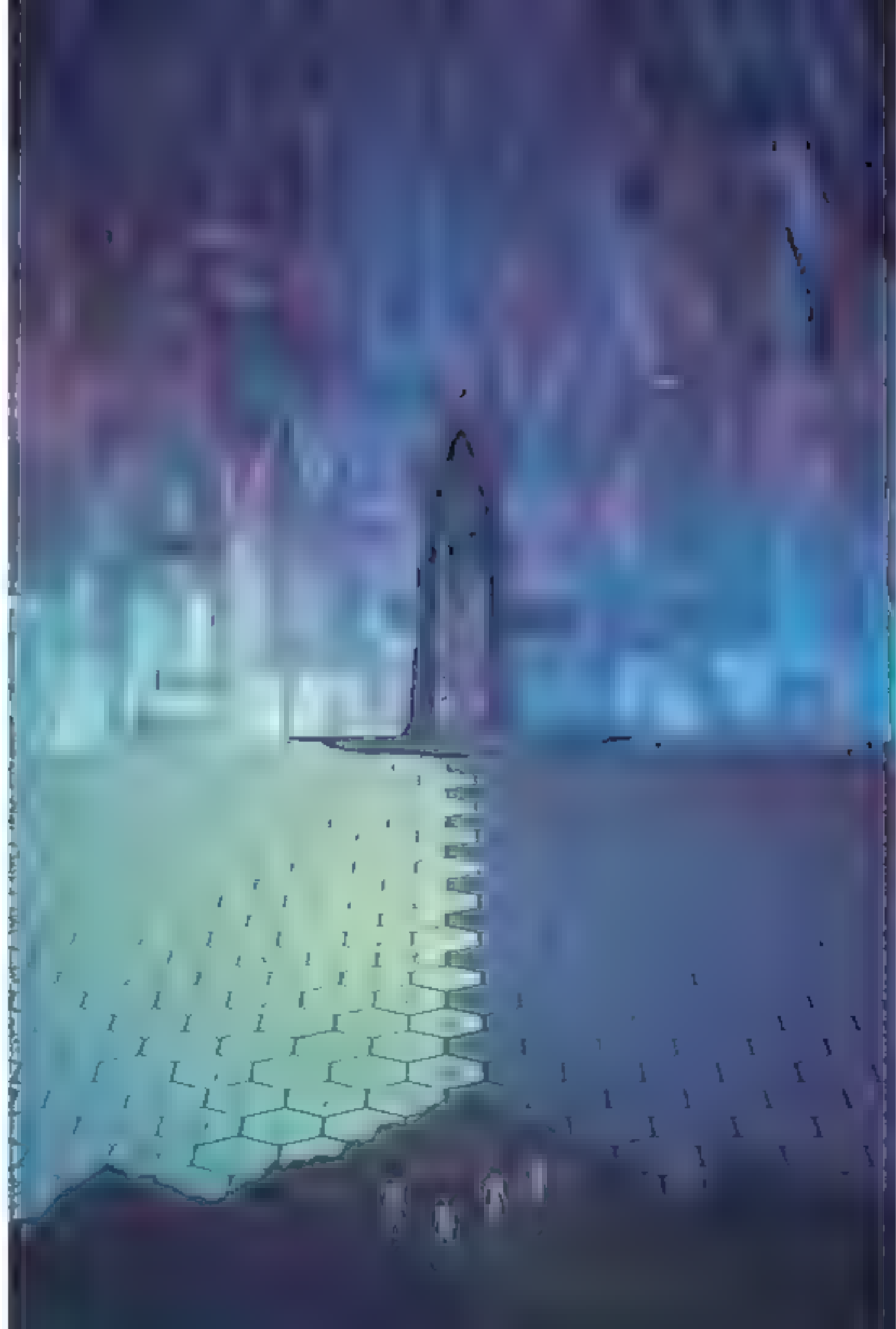
THE ILLUSION'S
STRENGTH DEPENDS
ON BOTH THE SKILL
AND THE PROXIMITY
OF THE KEEPER WHO
CASTS IT.



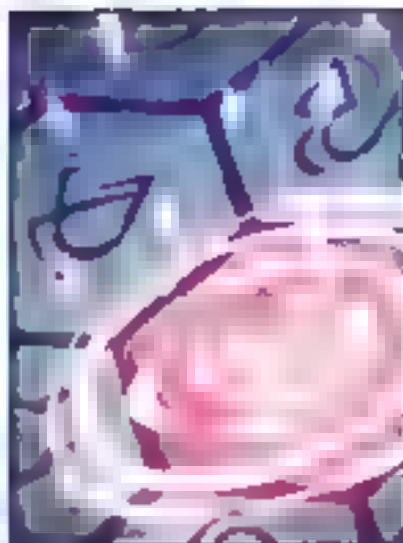
IT IS LIKELY
THE STONEKEEPER
IS FAR AWAY
FROM HERE.

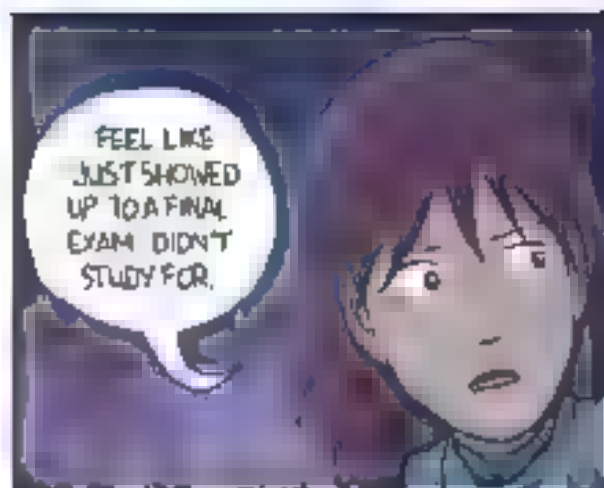


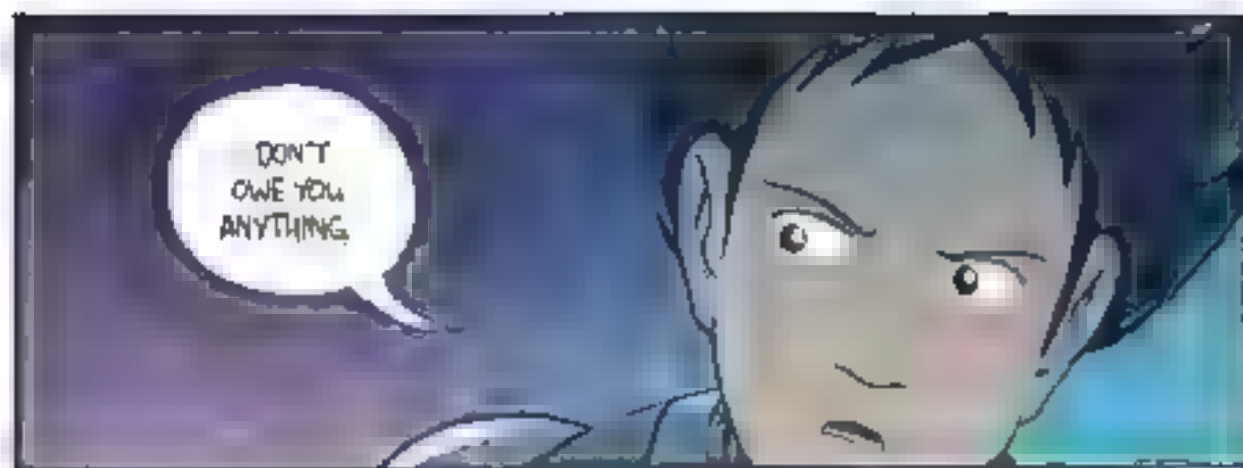


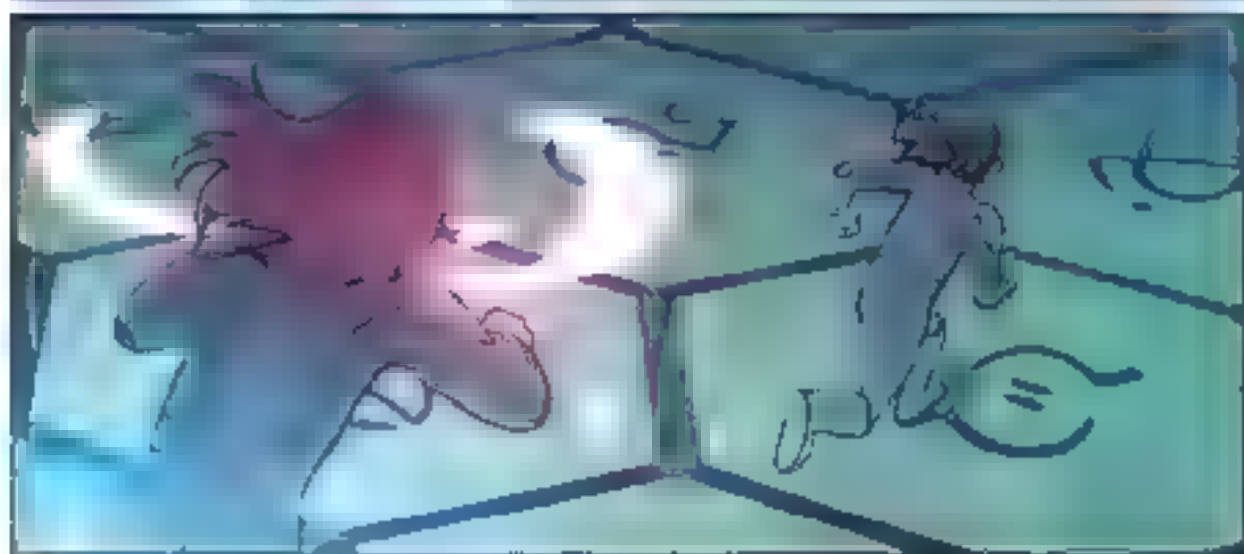
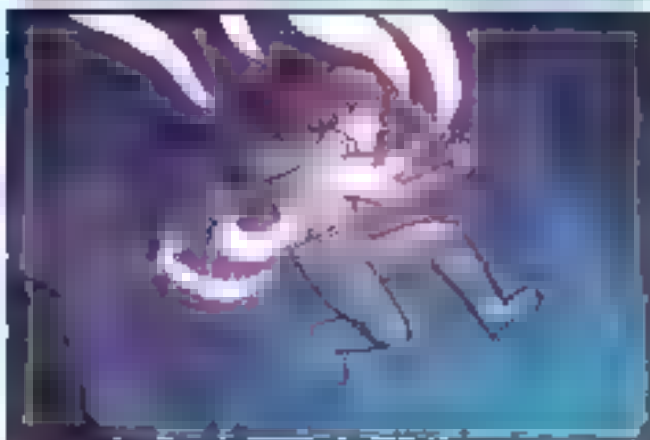
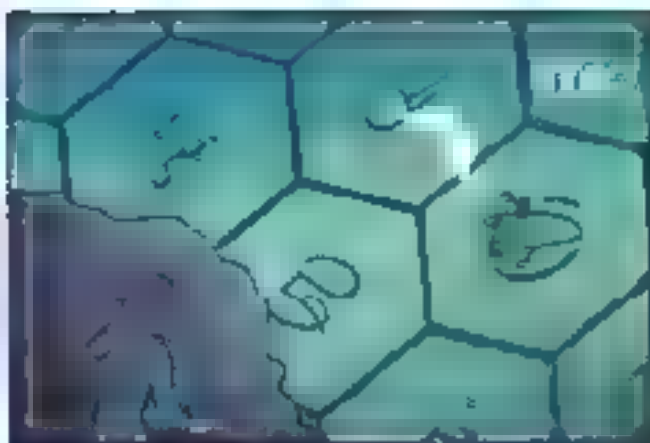


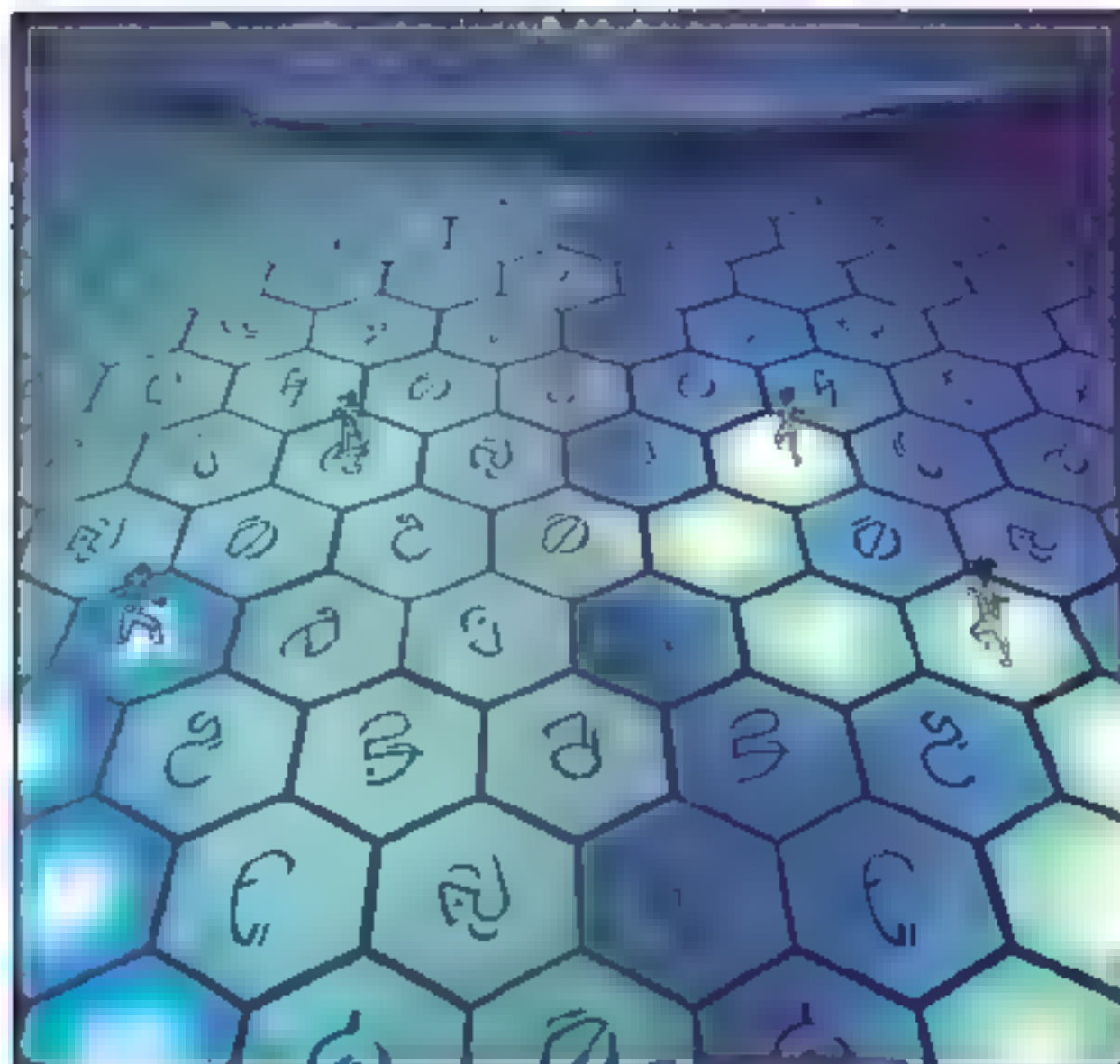


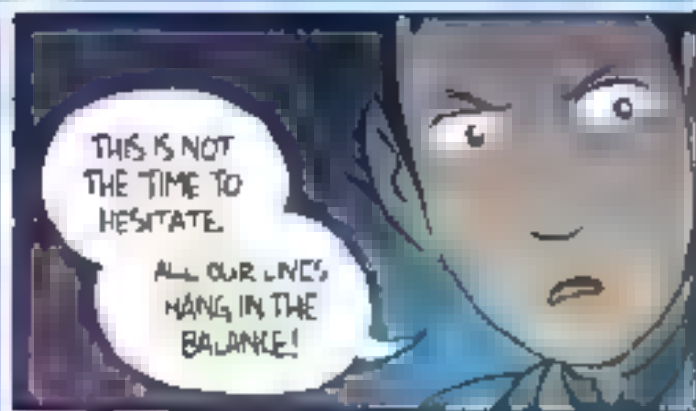


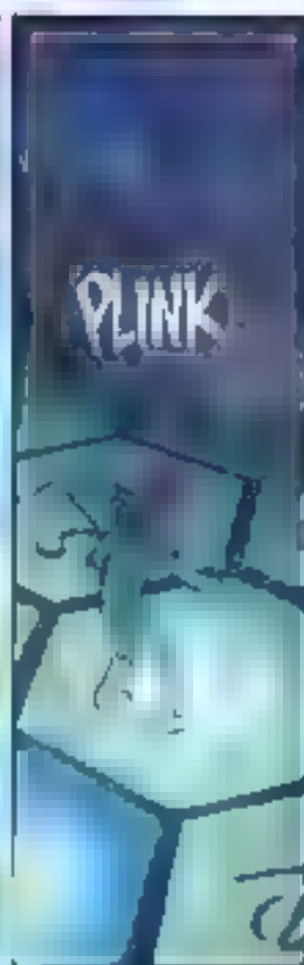
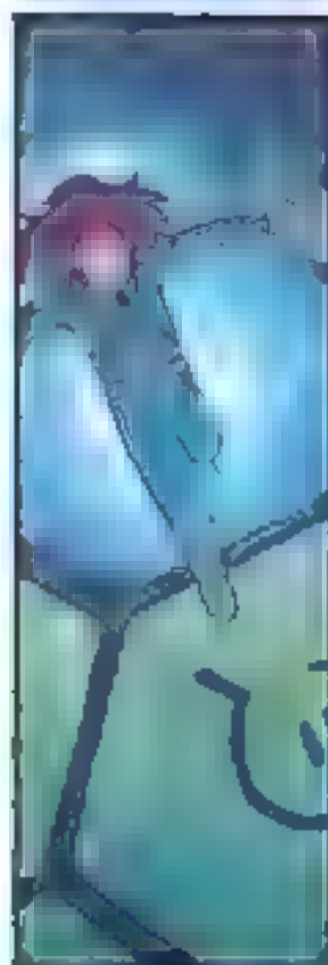
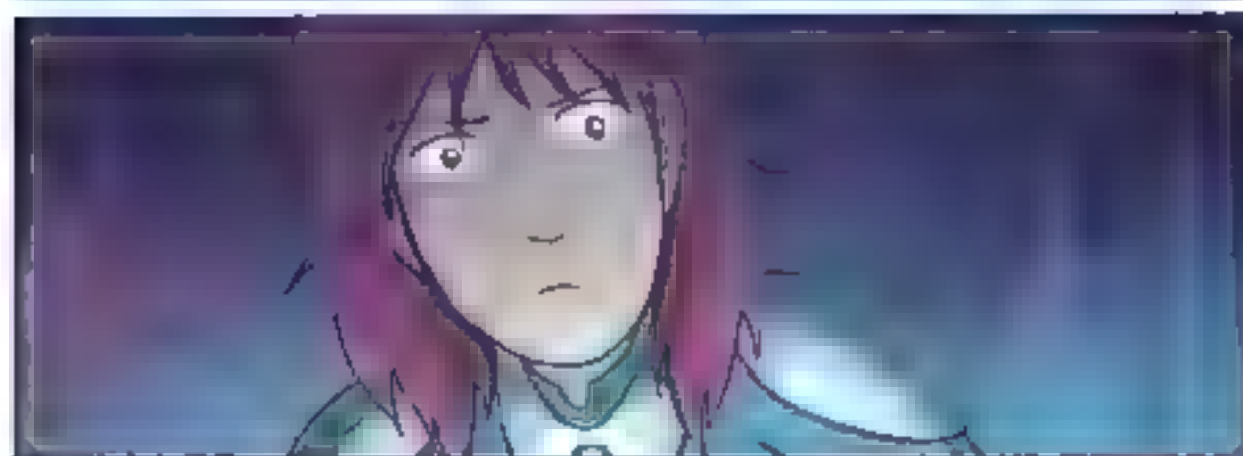


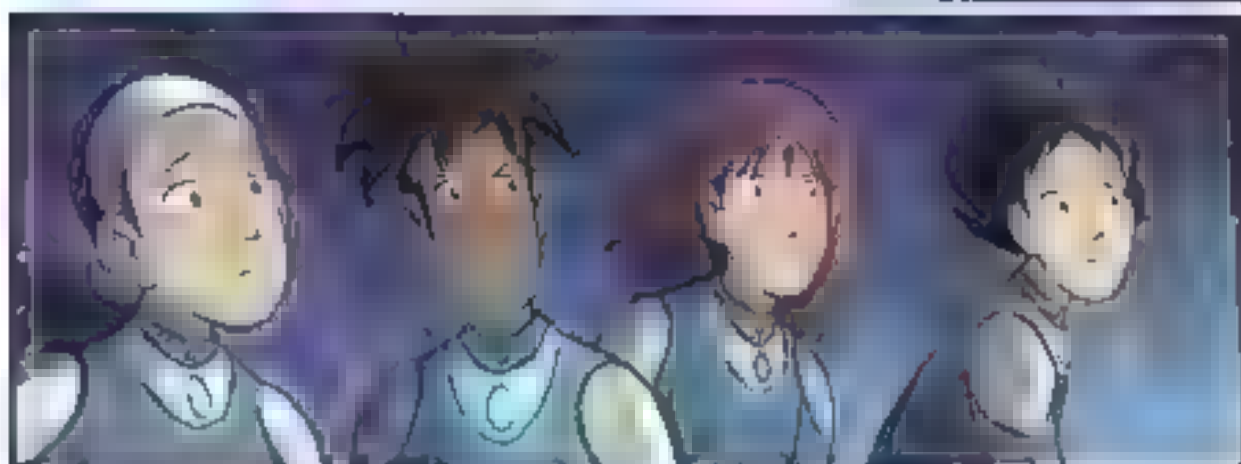


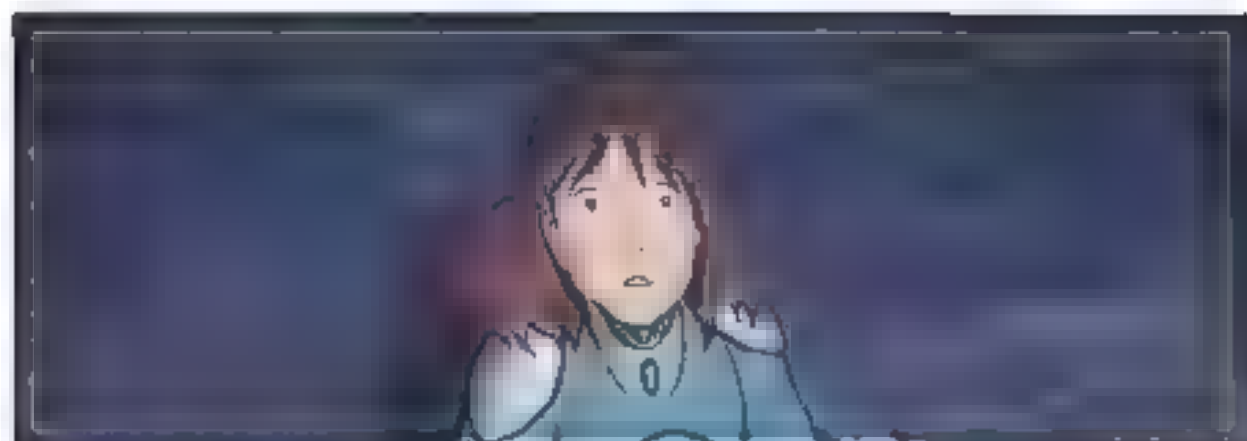




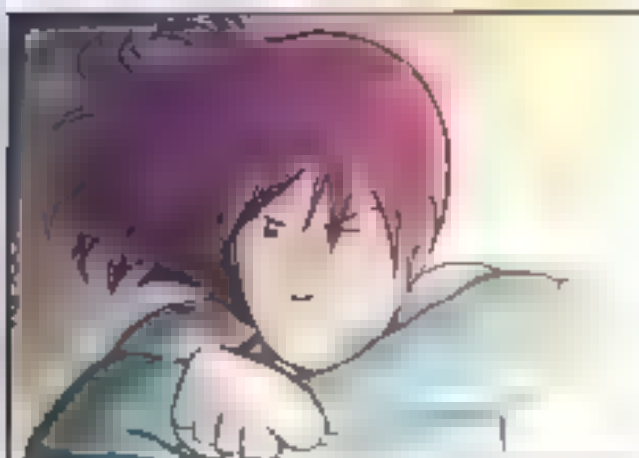
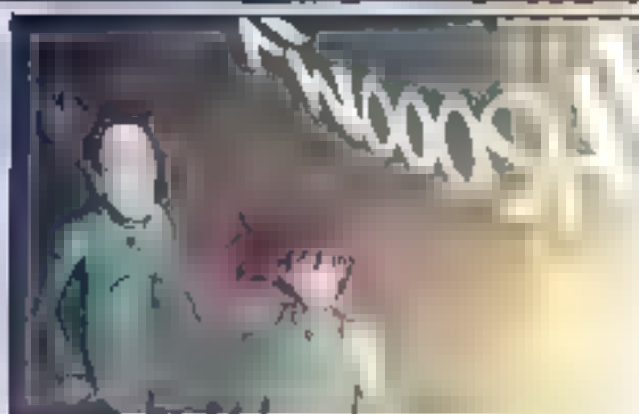
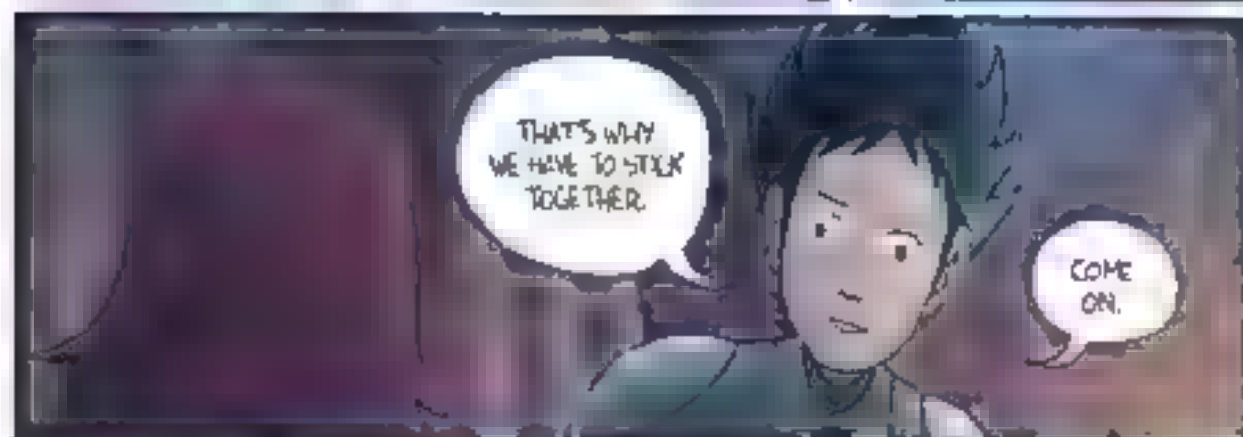
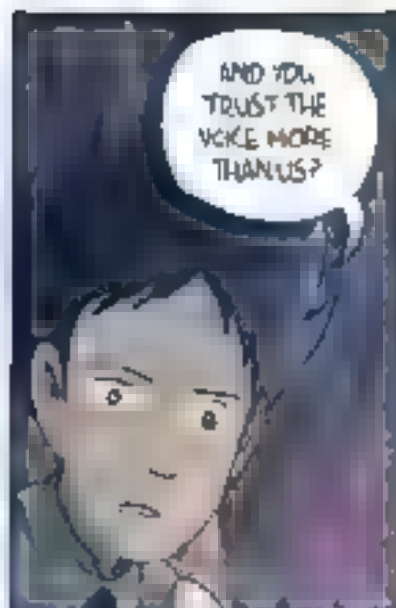






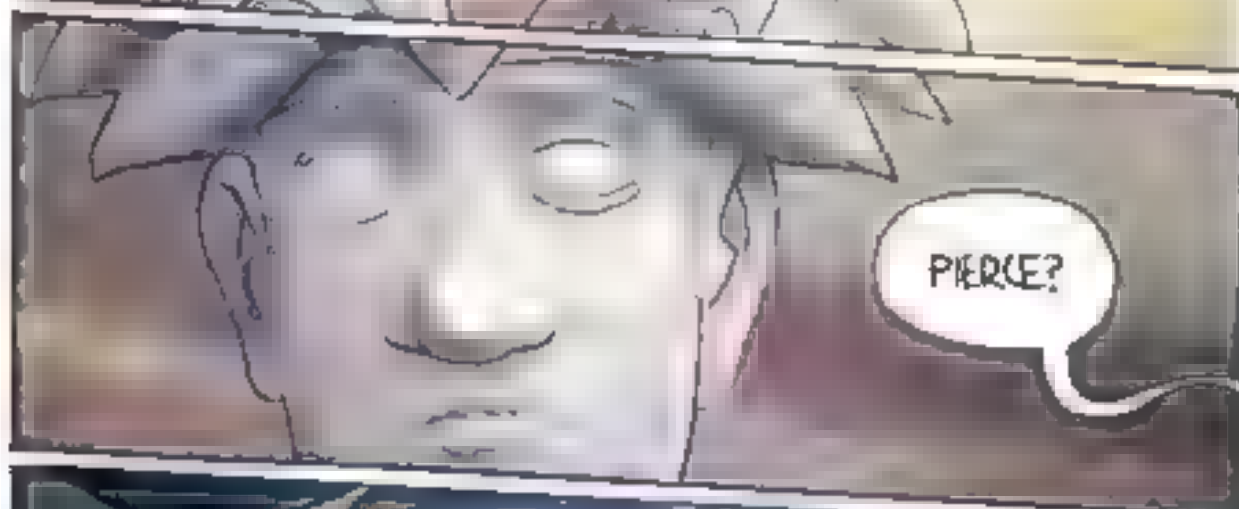


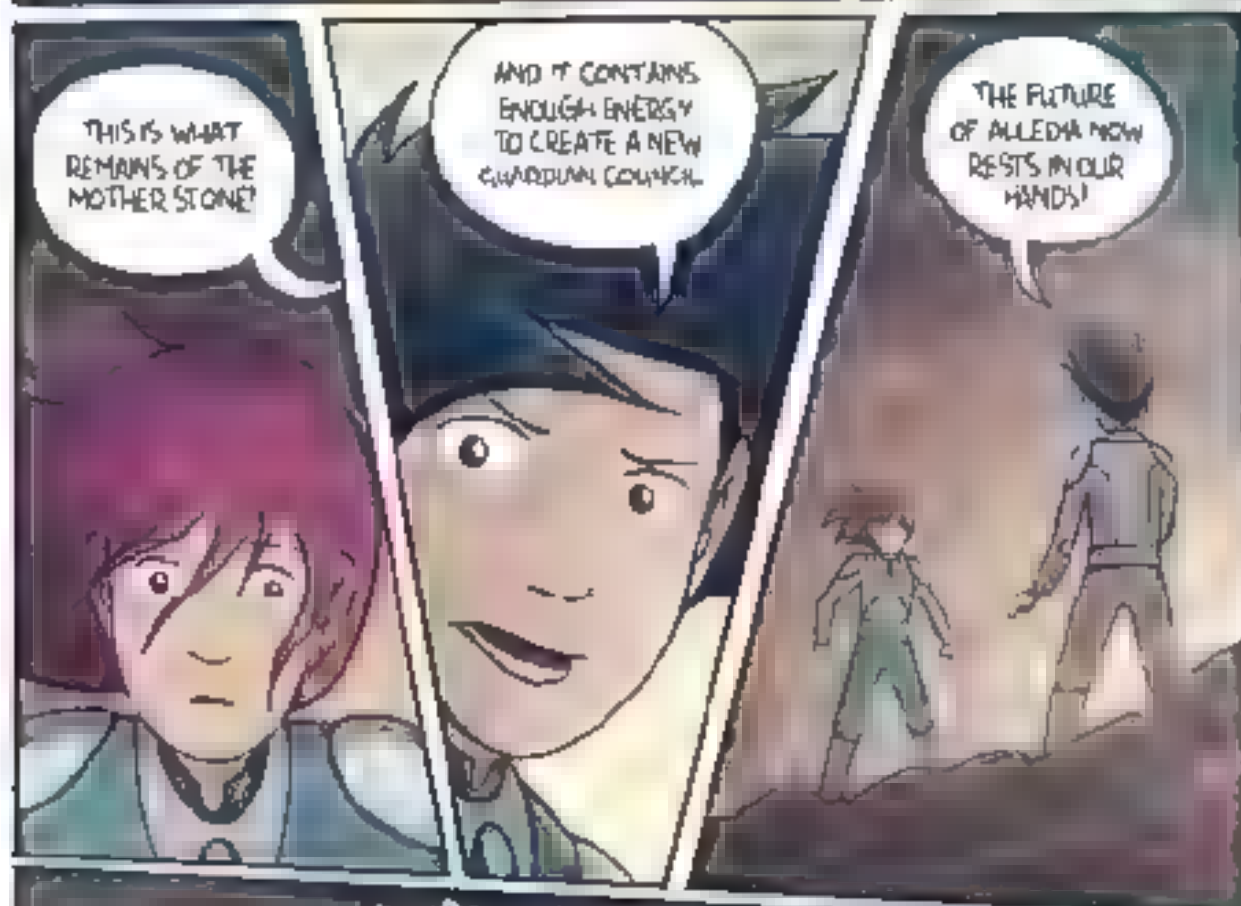


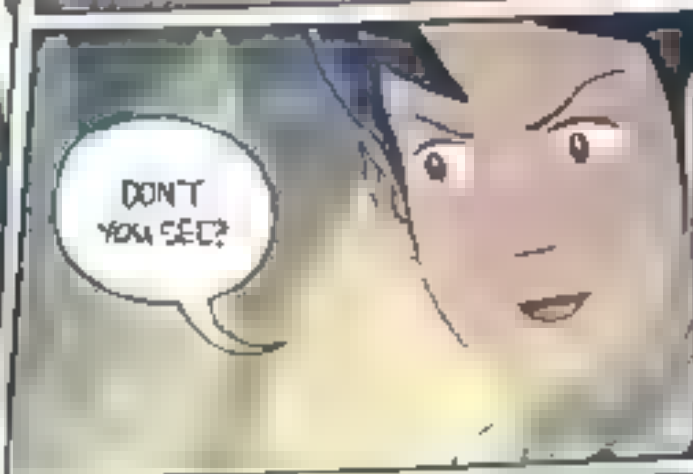
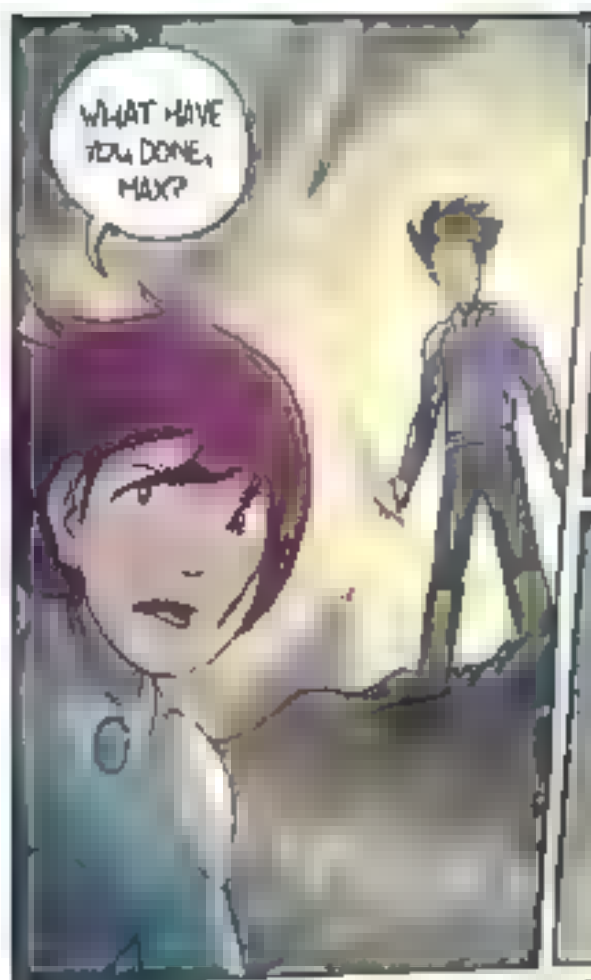


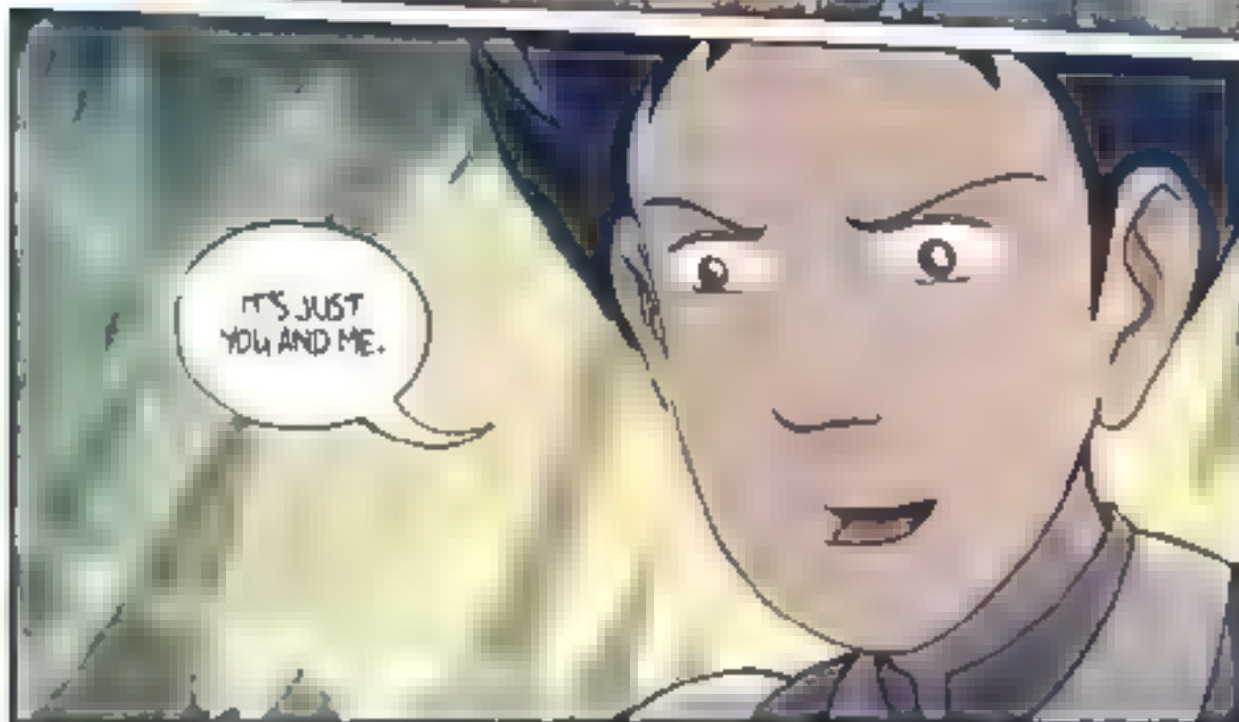
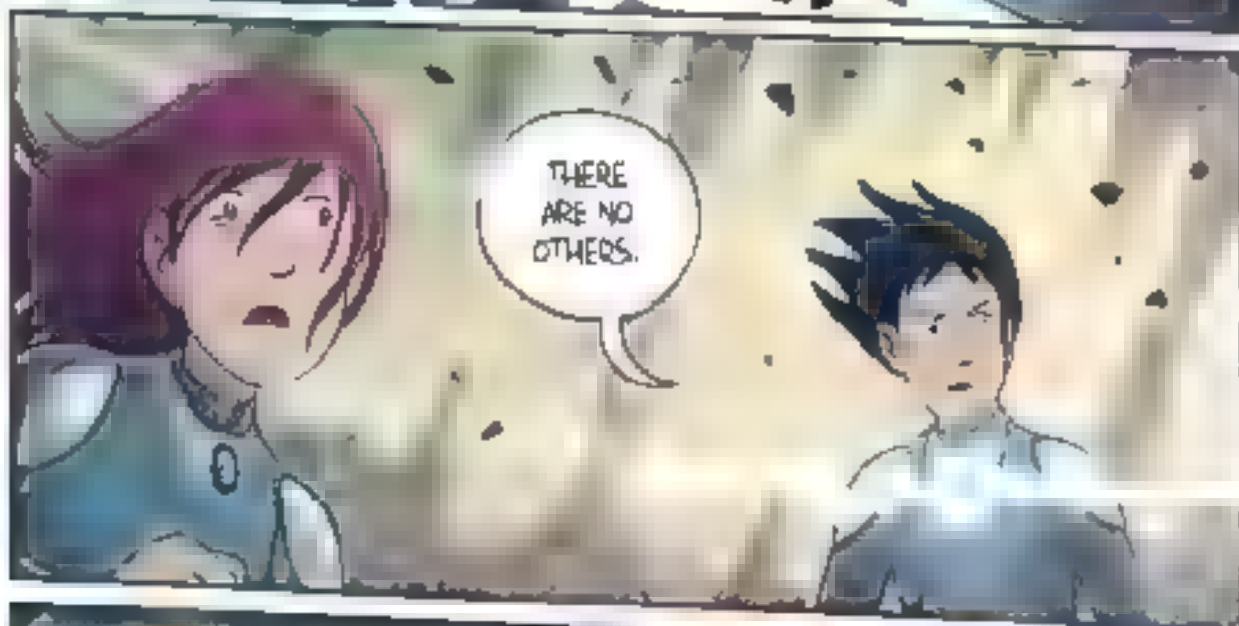


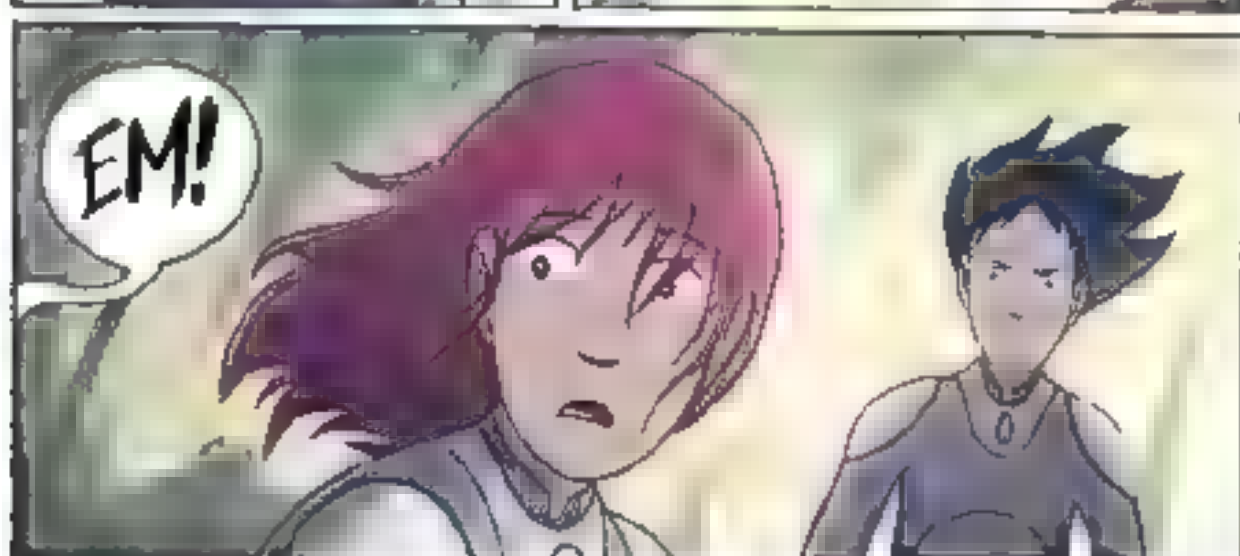
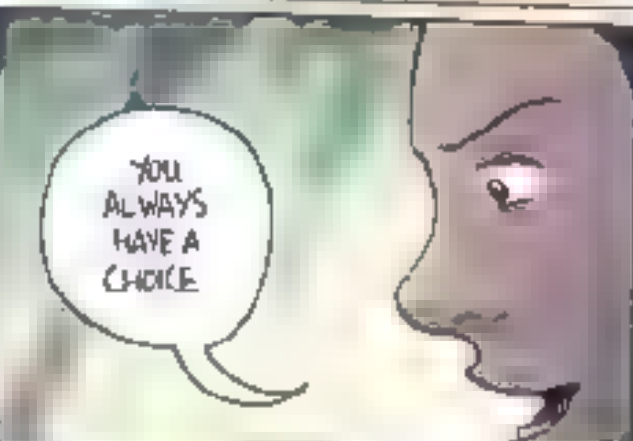
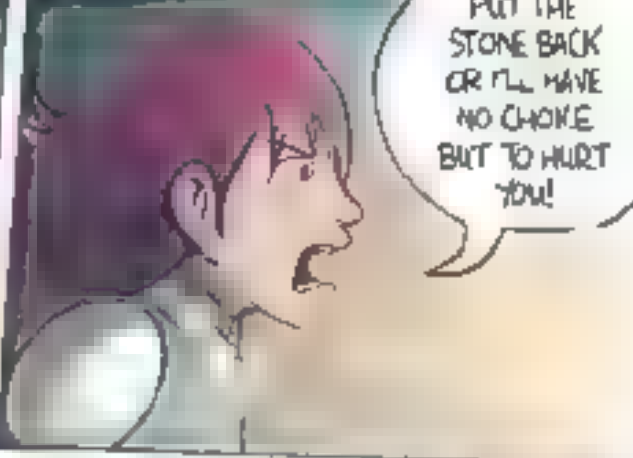


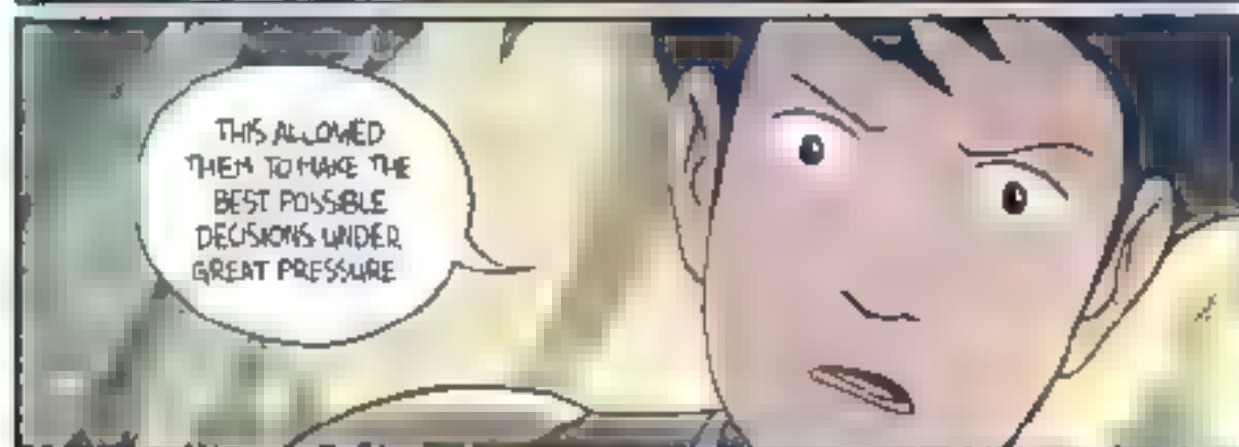
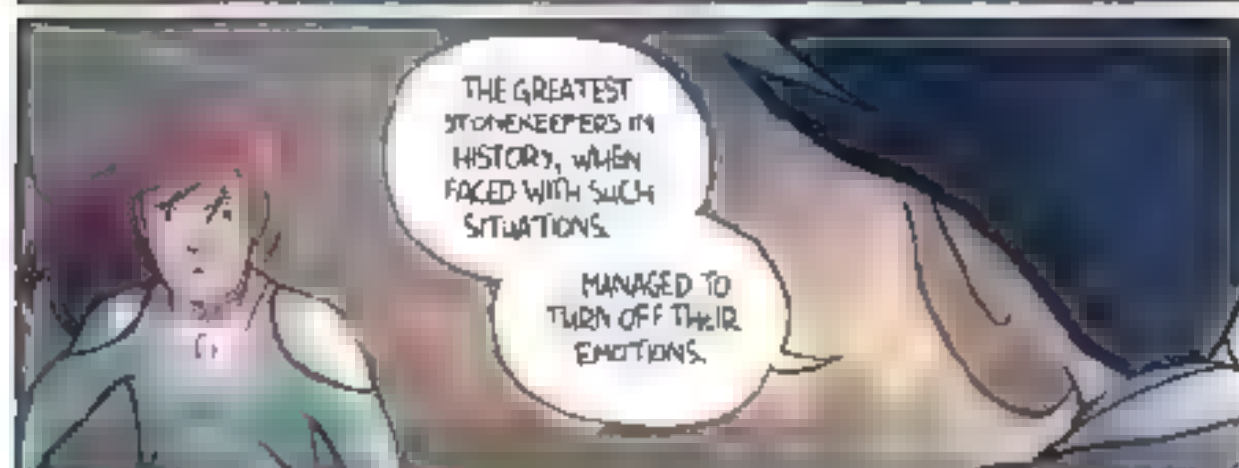


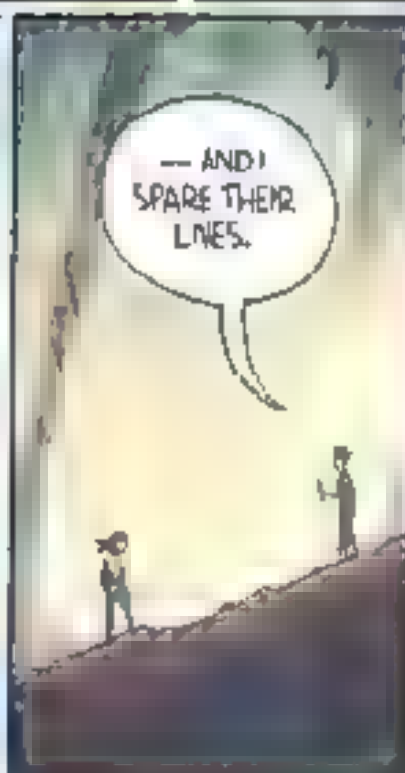




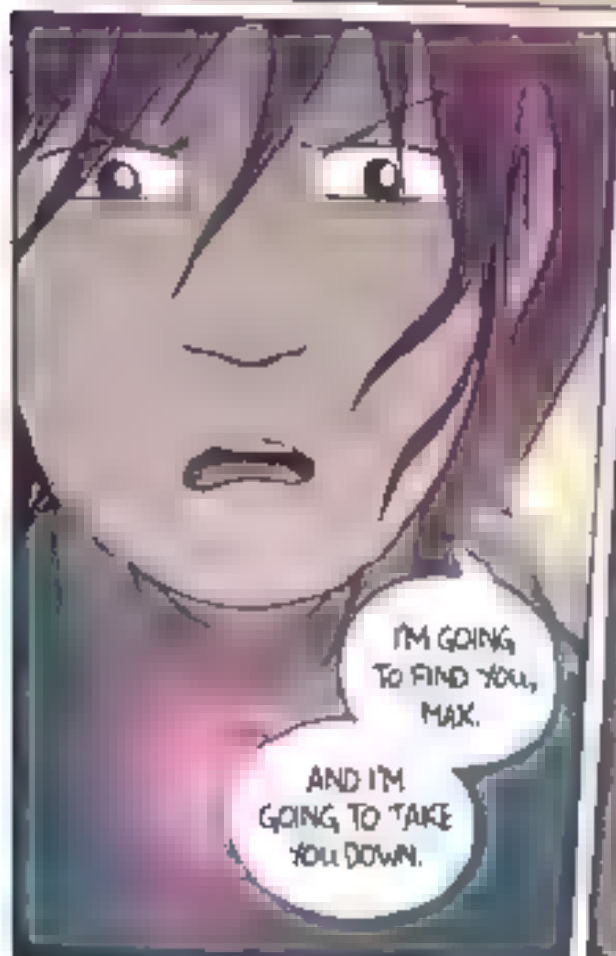
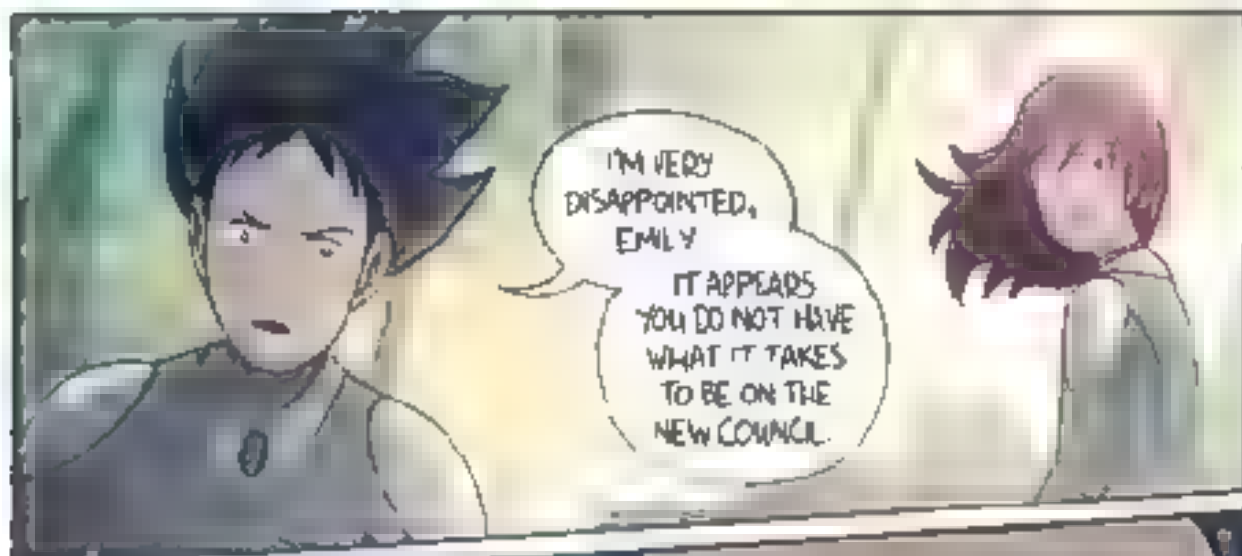


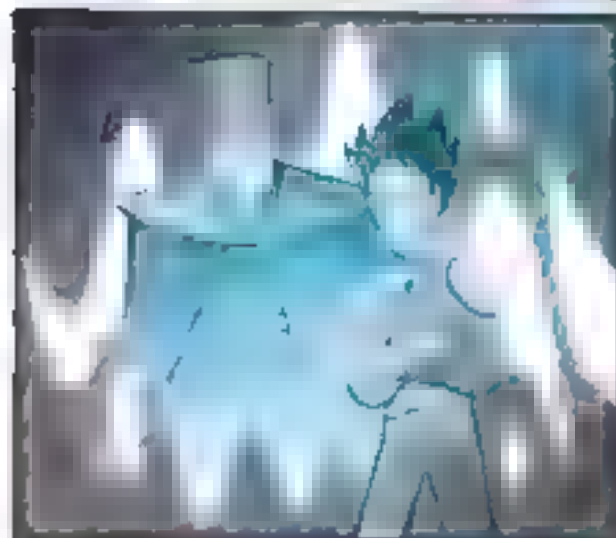
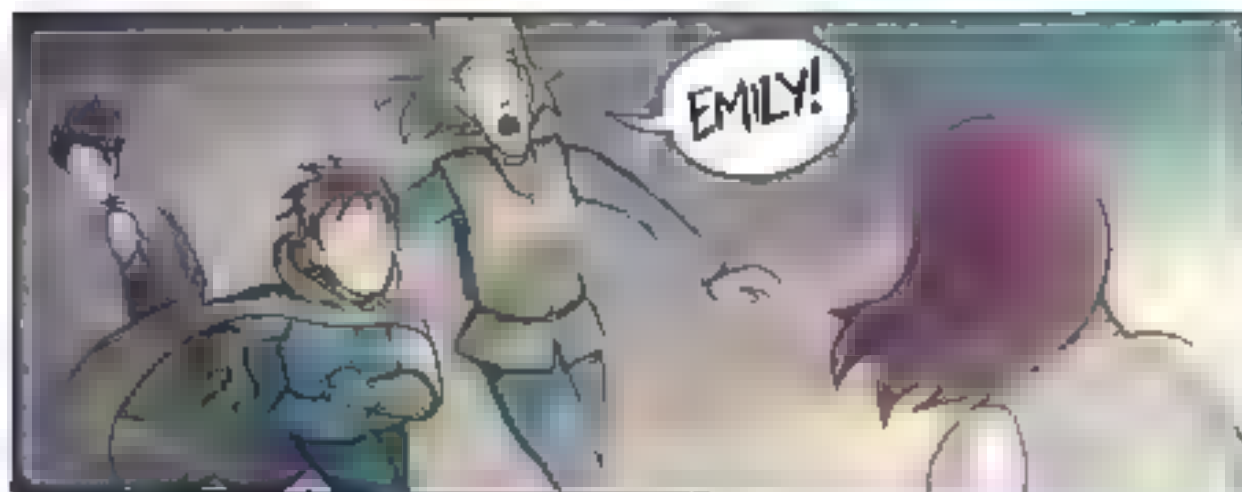


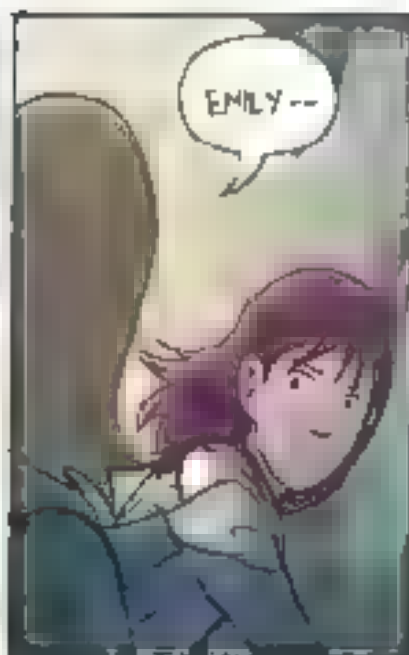


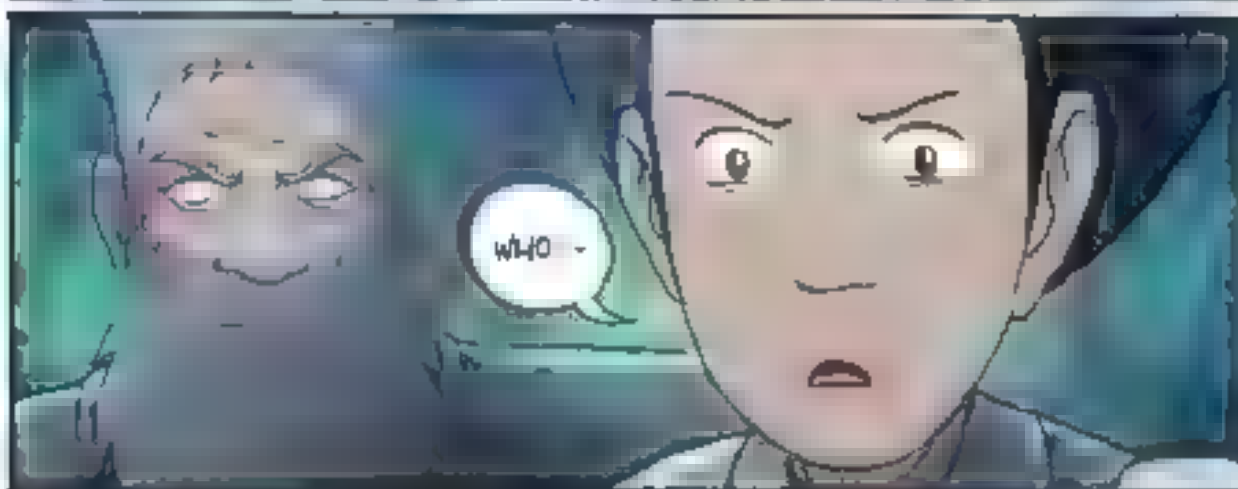
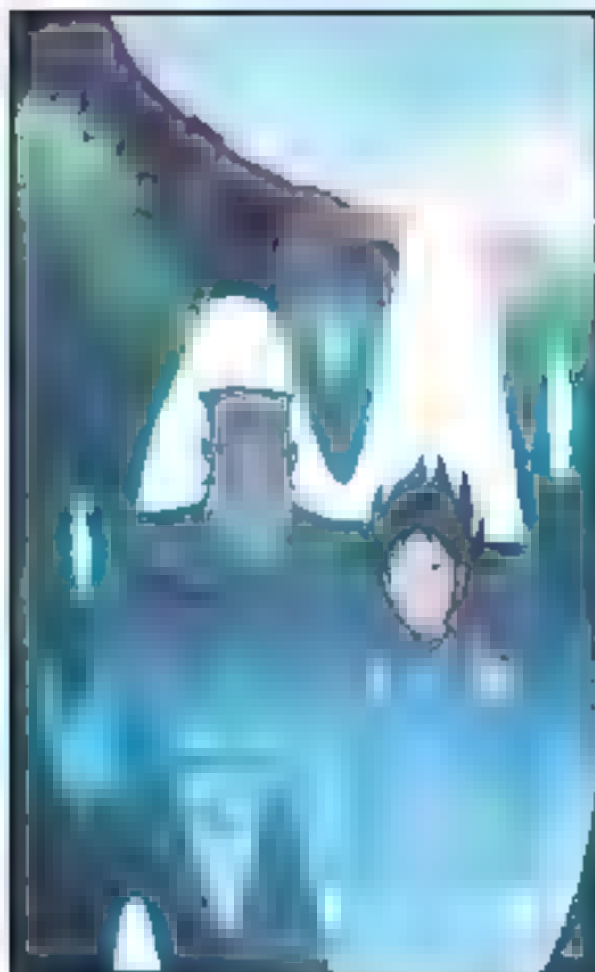


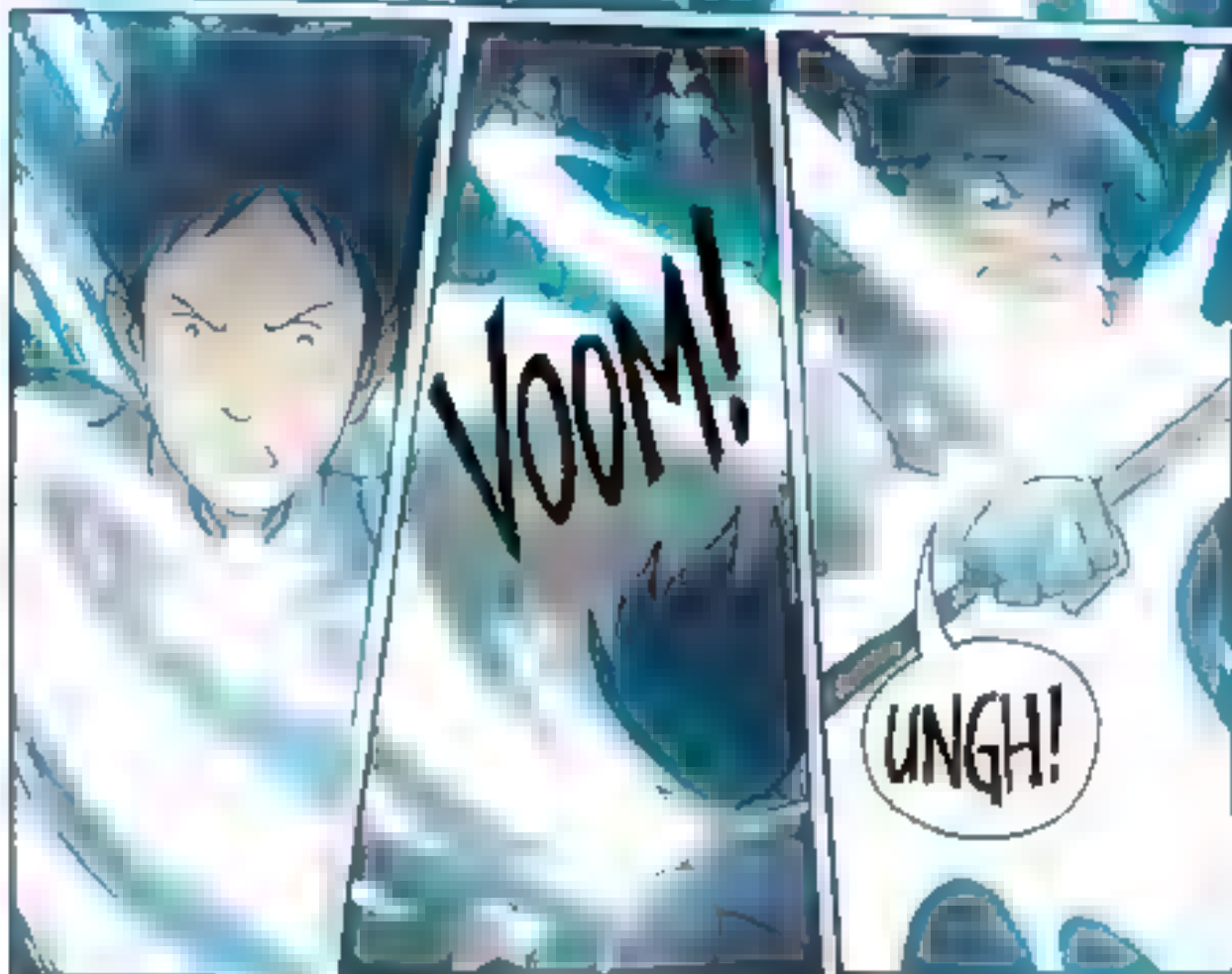




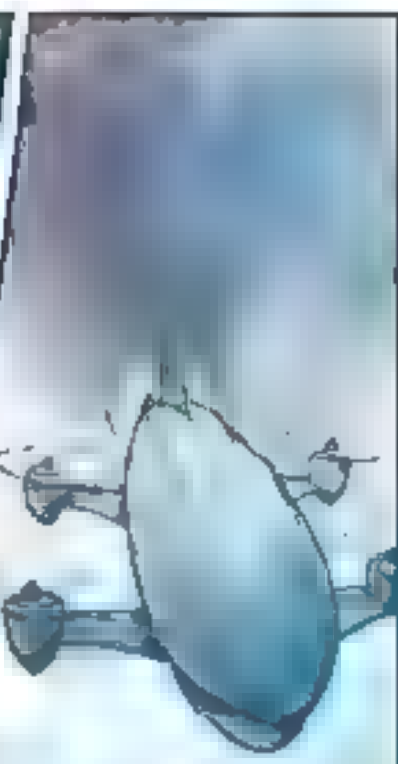








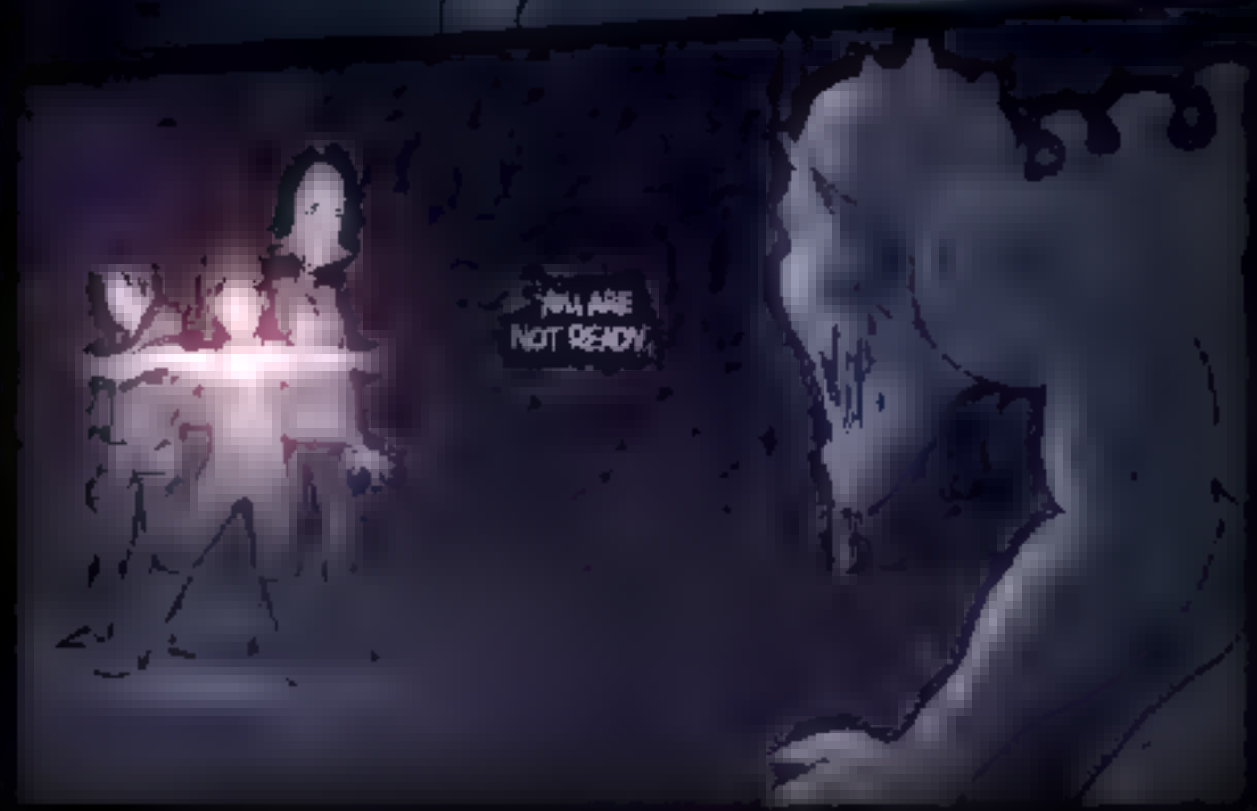
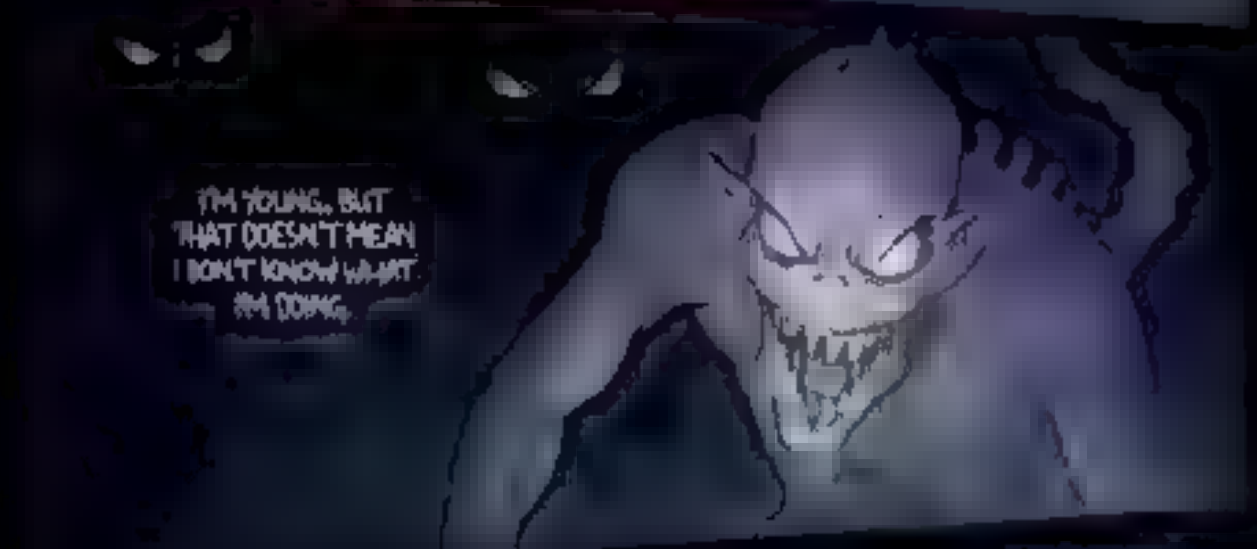




WHAT WILL I FIND
AT THE END?









NOT YET.

YOU WILL
BE SOON.

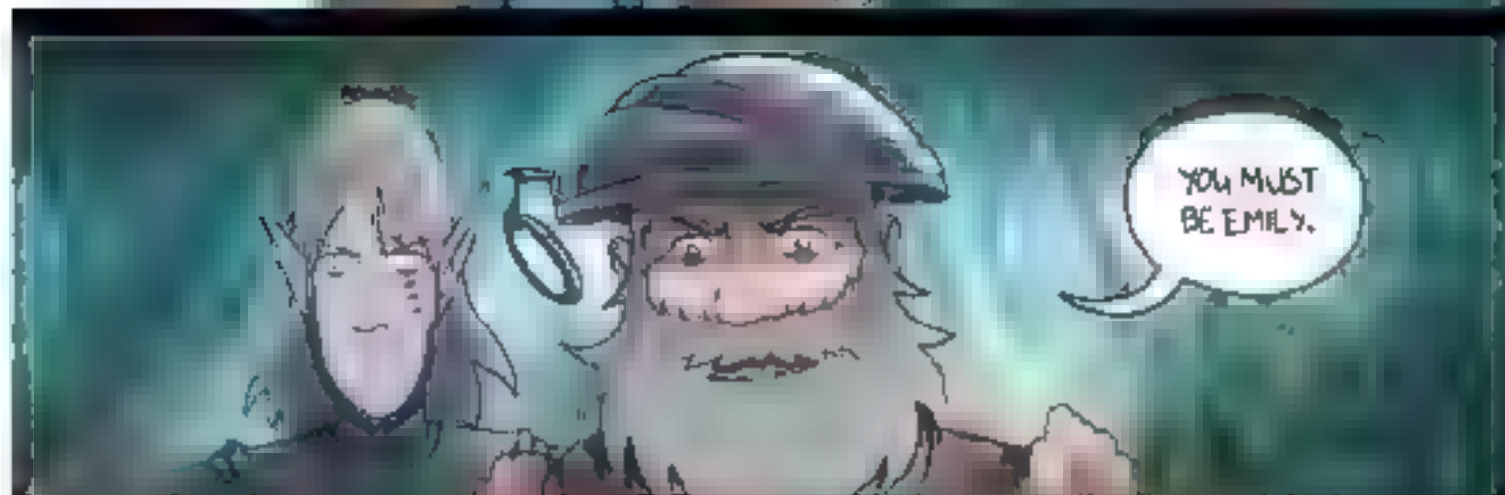


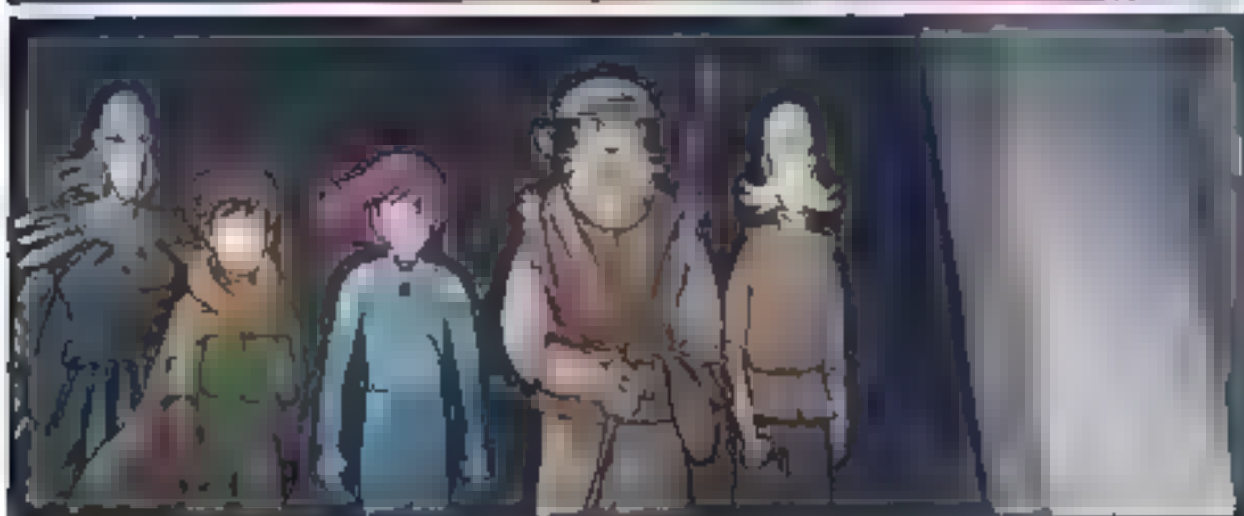
WHEN YOU BEGIN TO
REALIZE THE TRUE WEIGHT
OF YOUR ACTIONS...

• YOU WILL AWAKEN
TO BECOME THE
PERSON THIS WORLD
NEEDS YOU TO BE















HOW YOU
RECOVER FROM
THESE TRIALS IS
WHAT REALLY
MATTERS.



THE ELF
KING HAS NOW
BECOME MORE
POWERFUL THAN
EVER BEFORE.



WE'LL NEED
TO PREPARE FOR
A LONG BATTLE
AHEAD.



HEY, EM,
REMEMBER —

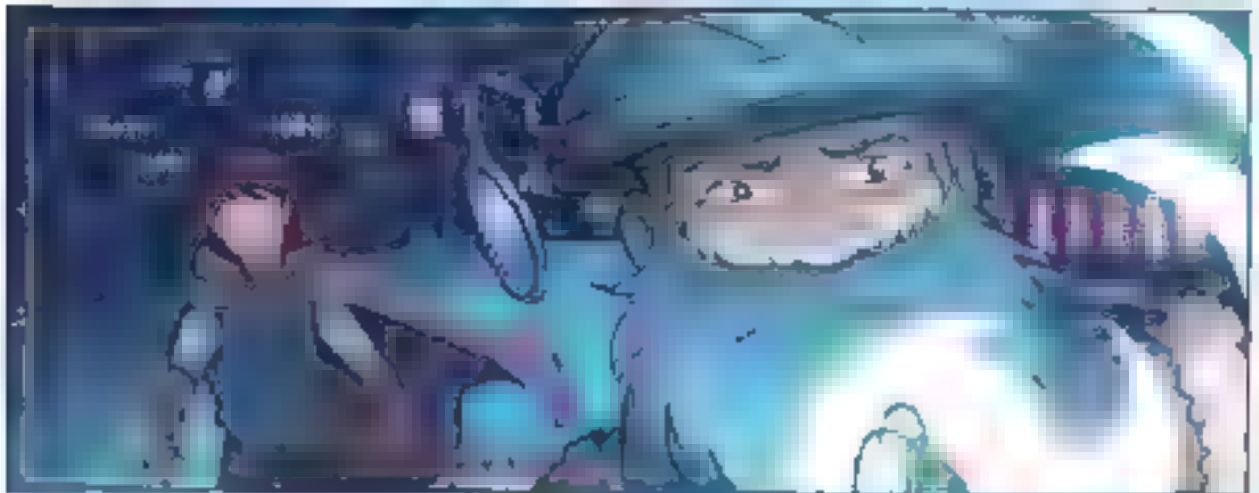
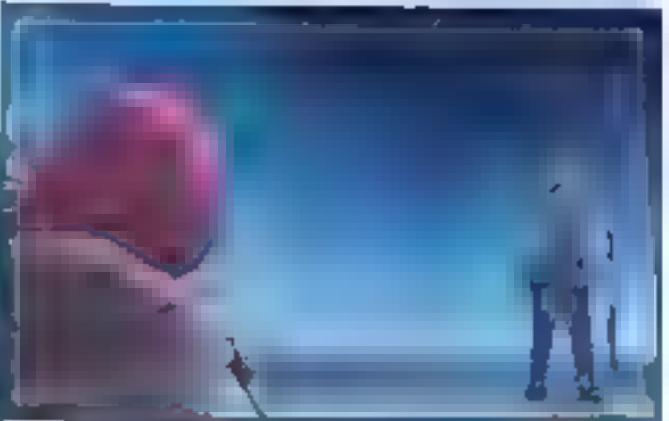
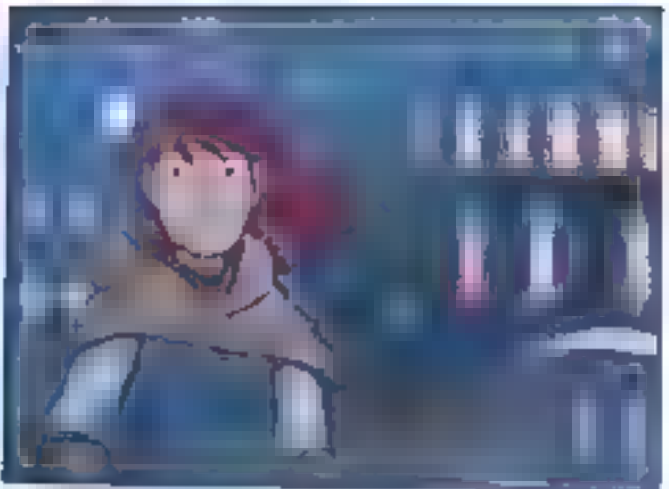


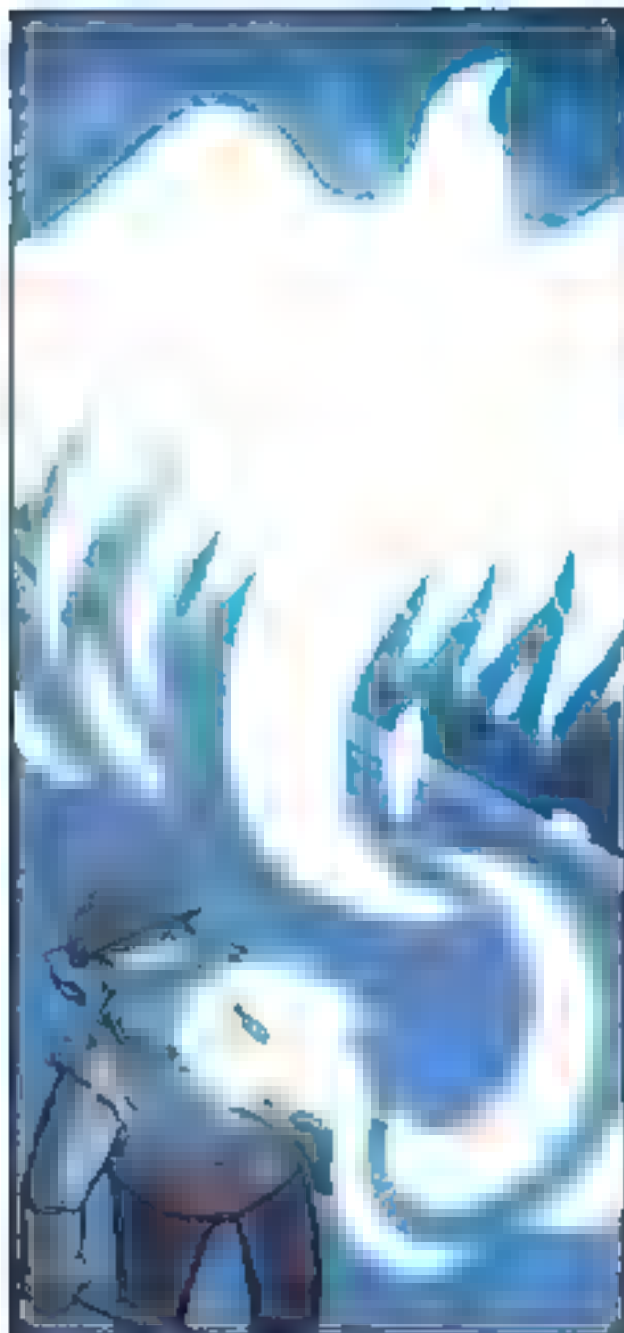
— YOU'RE
NOT ALONE

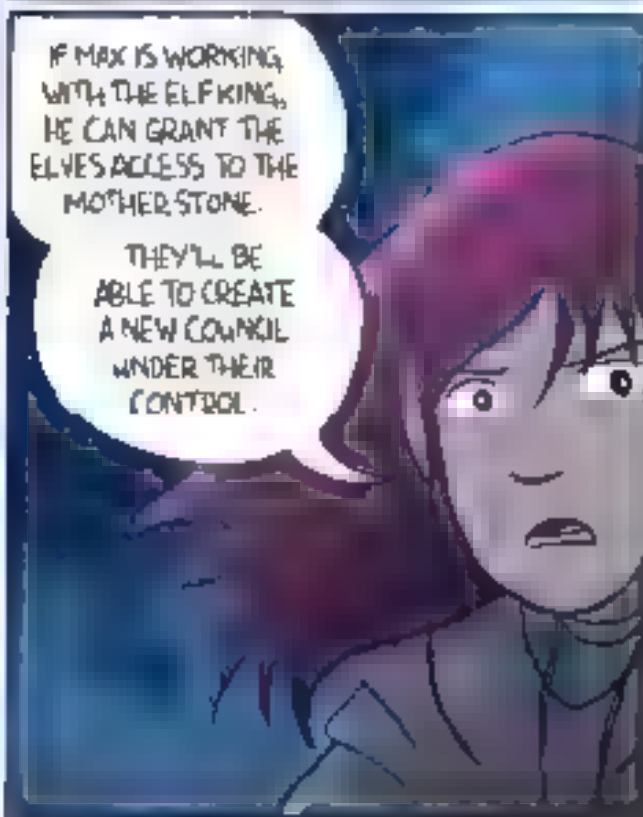


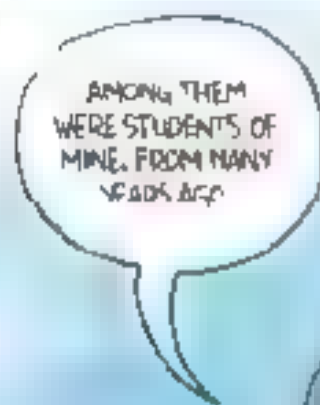
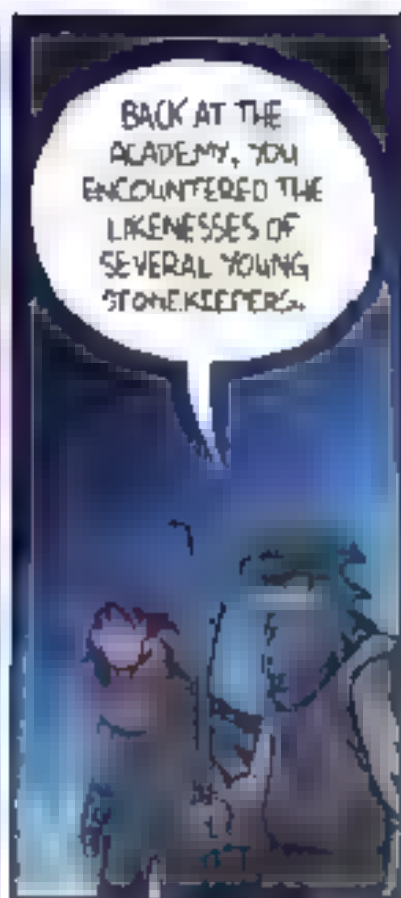
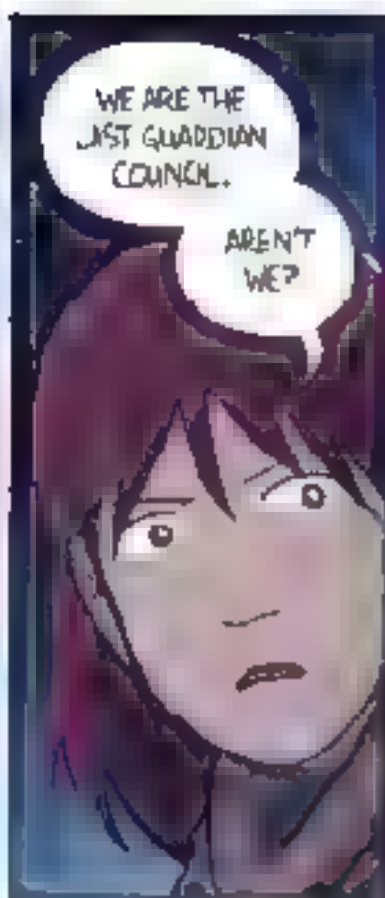
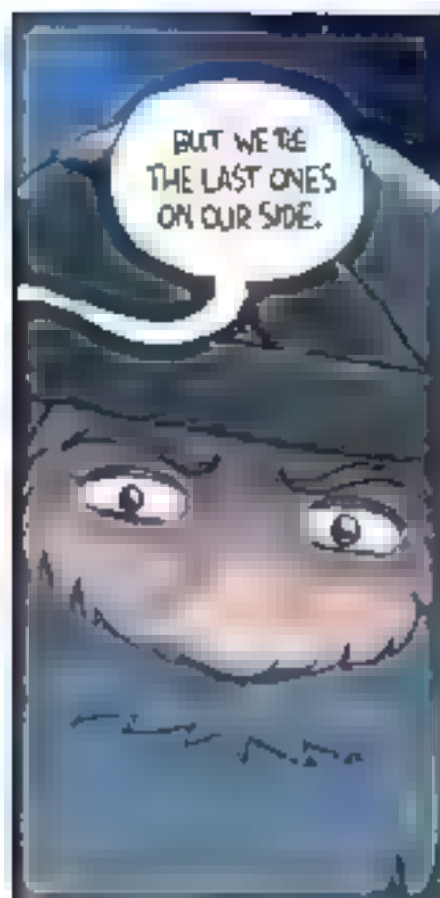
















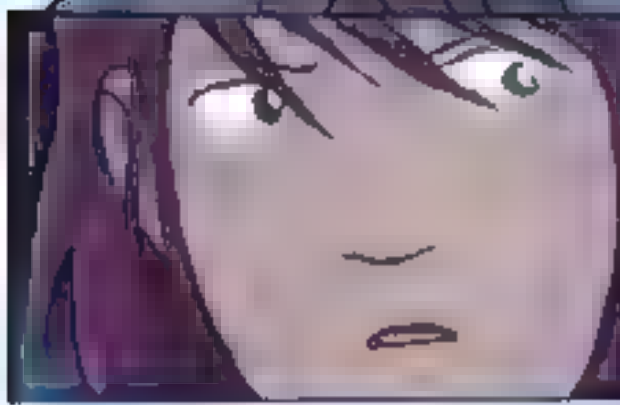
SHE CHOSE NOT TO JOIN
THE COUNCIL, CLAIMING THAT
THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS TOO
GREAT FOR A PERSON
HER AGE.

RONIN WOULD HAVE
JOINED A COUNCIL WITH
SEVERAL OTHER POWERFUL
STONEKEEPERS...

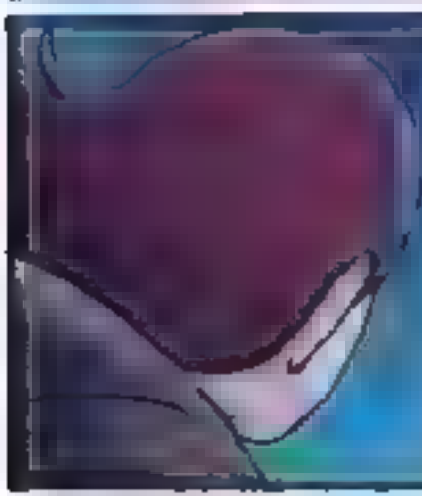


BUT YOU'LL BE
JOINED BY AN OLD MAN
FAR PAST HIS PRIME, AND
WE'LL BE UP AGAINST
A VERY POWERFUL
ENEMY

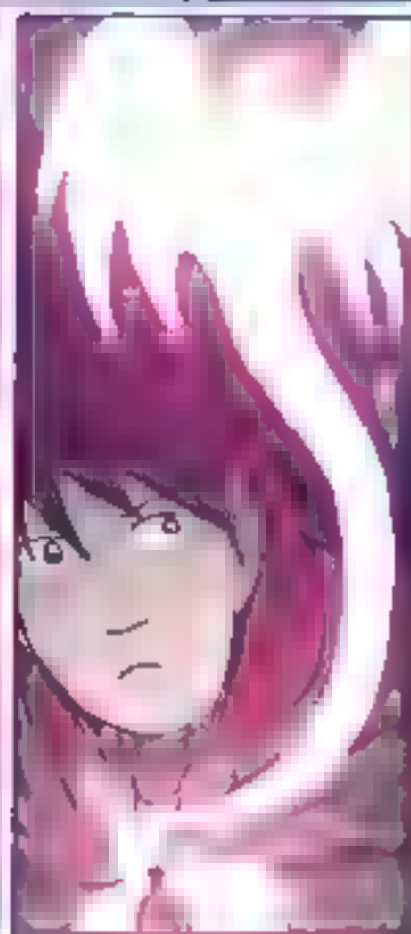
ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE READY FOR
THIS KIND OF
RESPONSIBILITY?

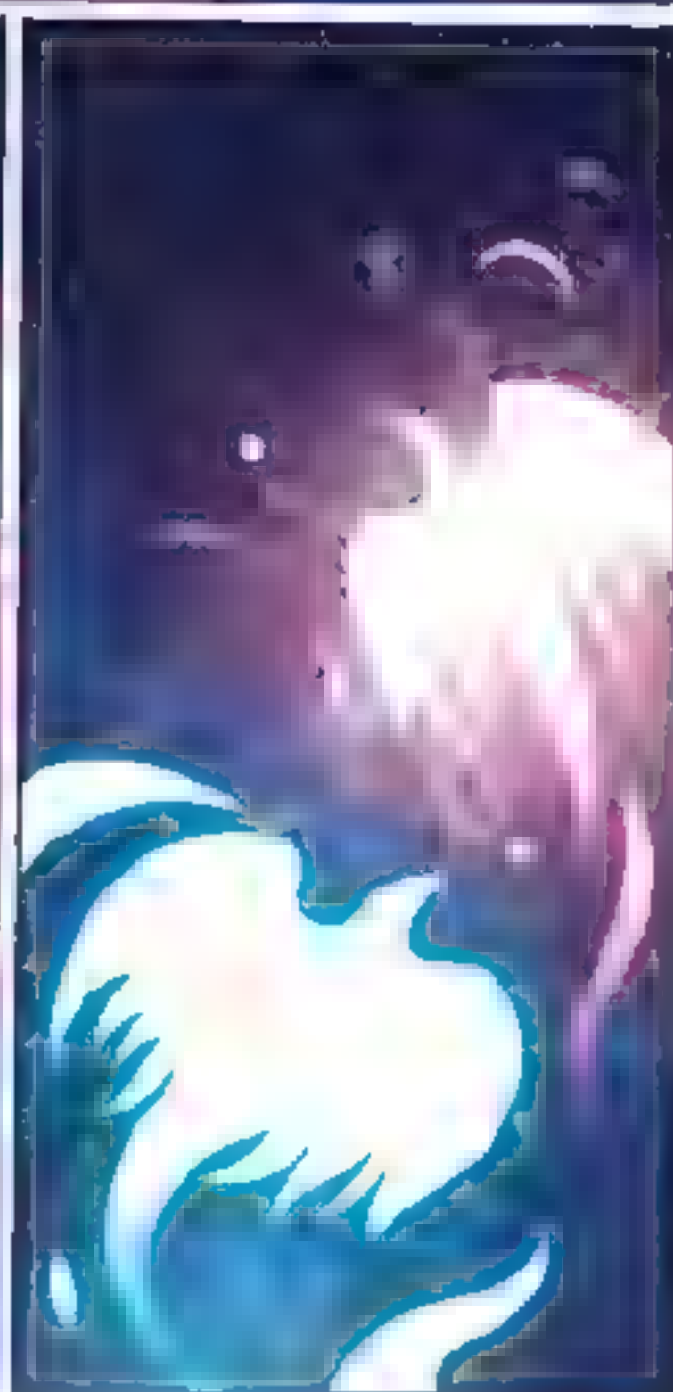
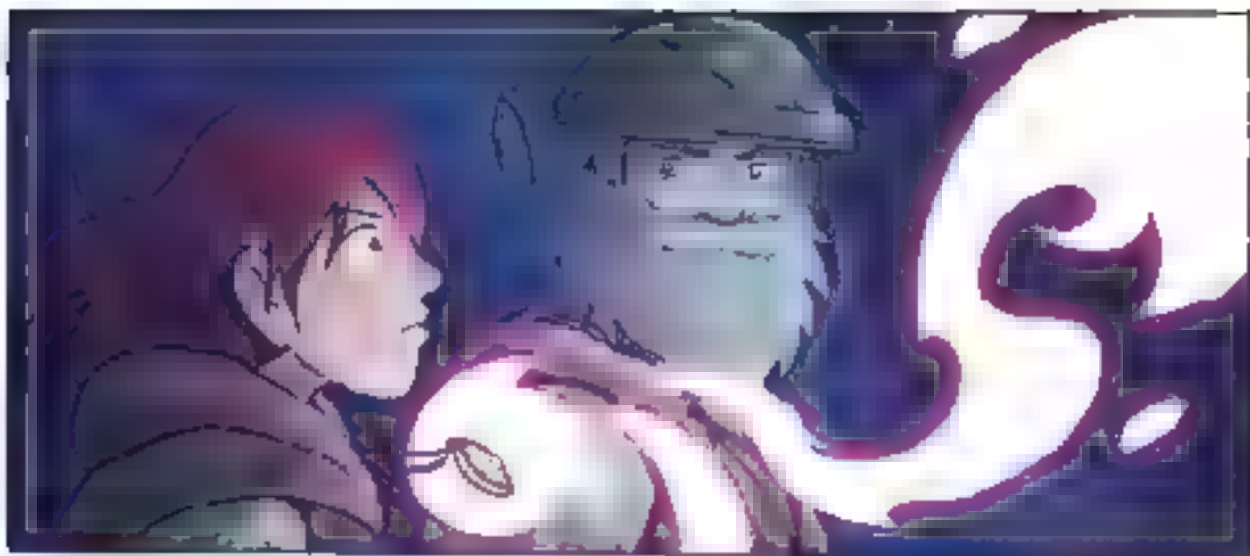


THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HER AND
ME IS THAT SHE FELT
SHE HAD A CHOICE.



I MAY NOT
BE AS CLEVER
AS MAX,
OR AS
SKILLED AS
RONIN...





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BOLT CITY

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KAZU KIBUISHI

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JASON CAFFO

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

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MCCLLOUD, & JUNE

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kazu Kibuishi is the creator of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Amulet* series. He is also the founder and editor of the acclaimed *Flight* anthologies, and is the creator of *Copper*, a collection of his popular webcomic that features an adventuresome boy-and-dog pair. Most recently, Kazu reimagined and illustrated the covers of the 15th anniversary paperback editions of the *Harry Potter* series. He lives and works in Seattle, Washington, with his wife, Amy Kim Kibuishi, and their children.

Visit Kazu online at www.boltcity.com.

MAP OF CIELIS




- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ZEPPELIN KEEP | 6. SHIPBUILDER'S MARKET |
| 2. GARDEN OF KEEPERS | 7. AIRSHIP DOCKS |
| 3. GUARDIAN CASTLE | 8. NIMBUS SQUALE |
| 4. COUNCIL CHAMBER | 9. CIELAN SPAN |
| 5. YARBORO PRISON | 10. WATERFALL CORRIDOR |

CATACOMBS OF CIELIS



- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. MOTHER STONE CHAMBER | 8. TRANSPIRE |
| 2. STONECUTTER ALCOVE | 9. ALTO CISTERN |
| 3. GUARDIAN TOMB | 10. NIMBUS CISTERN |
| 4. STRATUS CISTERN | 11. ROBOT MINES |
| 5. HEXAGON FIELD | 12. COLOSSUS WORKSHOP |
| 6. STONEKEEPER CATHEDRAL | 13. TRANSPIRE |
| 7. COLOSSAL HALL | 14. CRYSTAL GROTTO |



A FALLEN CITY WHERE TERRIBLE SECRETS ARE REVEALED . . .

Emily and her friends think they'll find the help they need in Cielis, but something isn't right. Streets that were once busy are deserted, and the townspeople who are left live in fear. Emily is soon escorted to the Academy, where she's expected to compete for a spot on the Guardian Council, a group of the most powerful Stonekeepers. But as the number of competitors gets smaller and smaller, an awful secret is slowly uncovered—a secret that, if left buried, means the certain destruction of everything Emily fights for.

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